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NEW YORK METS OFFICIAL 1986 YEARBOOK

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APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6	7	8 PITT 6:05 TV	9	10 PITT 7:35 TV	11 PHIL 7:35 S	12 PHIL 1:20
13 PHIL 1:35 TV	14* ST L 1:35 TV	15	16* ST L 1:35 S	17 SC ST L 1:35 TV	18 PHIL 7:35 TV	19* PHIL 1:35 S
20* PHIL 1:35 TV	21 PITT 7:35	22 PITT 7:35 S	23	24 ST L 8:35 S	25 ST L 8:35 TV	26 ST L 1:20
27 ST L 2:15 TV	28	29 ATL 5:40 S	30 ATL 7:40 S			

MAY

				1 ATL 5:40 S	2 CIN 7:35 TV	3 CIN 2:15 S
4 CIN 2:15 TV	5 Lynchburg	6 HOU 7:35 S	7 HOU 7:35 S	8	9 CIN 7:35 TV	10* CIN 1:20
11* CIN 1:35 TV	12 ATL 7:35 S	13 ATL 7:35 S	14 HOU 8:35 TV	15 HOU 8:35 TV	16 LA 10:35 TV	17 LA 4:05
18 LA 3:05 TV	19	20 SF 10:35 S	21 SF 3:05 S	22 SF 4:05 TV	23 SD 10:05 TV	24 SD 10:05 S
25 SD 4:05 TV	26 H	27 LA 7:35 TV	28 LA 7:35 TV	29 LA 7:35 S	30 SF 7:35 TV	31* SF 7:05 S

JUNE

1* SF 1:35 TV	2 SD 7:35 S	3 SD 7:35 TV	4 SD 7:35 TV	5 PITT 7:35 S	6 PITT 7:35 TV	7 PITT 7:05 S
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29 CHI 2:20 TV	30 ST L 8:35 S					

HOME AWAY

1986 PROMOTION DATES

Opening Day (All)	Monday, April 14	Kool Aid Fireworks Night (All)	Thursday, July 3
Opening Day II (All)	Wednesday, April 16	MHT 25th Anniversary Cap Night (All)	Saturday, July 5
Snapper Calendar Weekend (All)	Saturday & Sunday April 19 & 20	Equitable 25th Anniversary Oldtimers' Day (All)	Saturday, July 12
Starter Wrist Band Day (14 & under)	Saturday, May 10	The CIT Group Mets Memory Poster Night (All)	Tuesday, July 29
SiDARi Mother's Day Tote Bag (16 & older)	Sunday, May 11	Back to School Day Met Life Windbreaker Day (14 & under)	Monday, September 1
Kool Aid Baseball Glove Night (14 & under)	Saturday, May 31	Snapper Umbrella Day (15 & older)	Saturday, September 6
BabyRuth & Butterfinger Cap Day (All)	Sunday, June 1	Purolator Fan Appreciation Ski Cap Day (All)	Sunday, September 21
R/C Cola Sports Bag Day (All)	Saturday, June 14		
Emerson Banner Day	Sunday, June 15		
Kahn's Meats Kids Jersey Day (14 & under)	Sunday, June 22		

(Promotion Dates subject to change or revision)

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 ST L 8:35 TV	2 ST L 8:35 TV	3* HOU 7:35 TV	4 H HOU 1:35 S	5* HOU 7:05 S
6 SC HOU 1:35 TV	7 CIN 7:35 S	8 CIN 7:35 S	9 SC CIN 1:35 TV	10 ATL 7:35 TV	11 ATL 7:35	12* ATL 1:35 S
13 ATL 1:35 TV	14	15 All Star Game HOU	16	17 HOU 8:35 TV	18 HOU 8:35 TV	19 HOU 8:35 S
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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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28 PITT 1:35 TV	29	30 MON 7:35 TV				

OCTOBER

			1 MON 7:05 S	2 MON 7:35 TV	3 PITT 7:35 TV	4 PITT 1:35 S
5 PITT 1:35 TV						

•• Doubleheader
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SC Senior Citizen's Day
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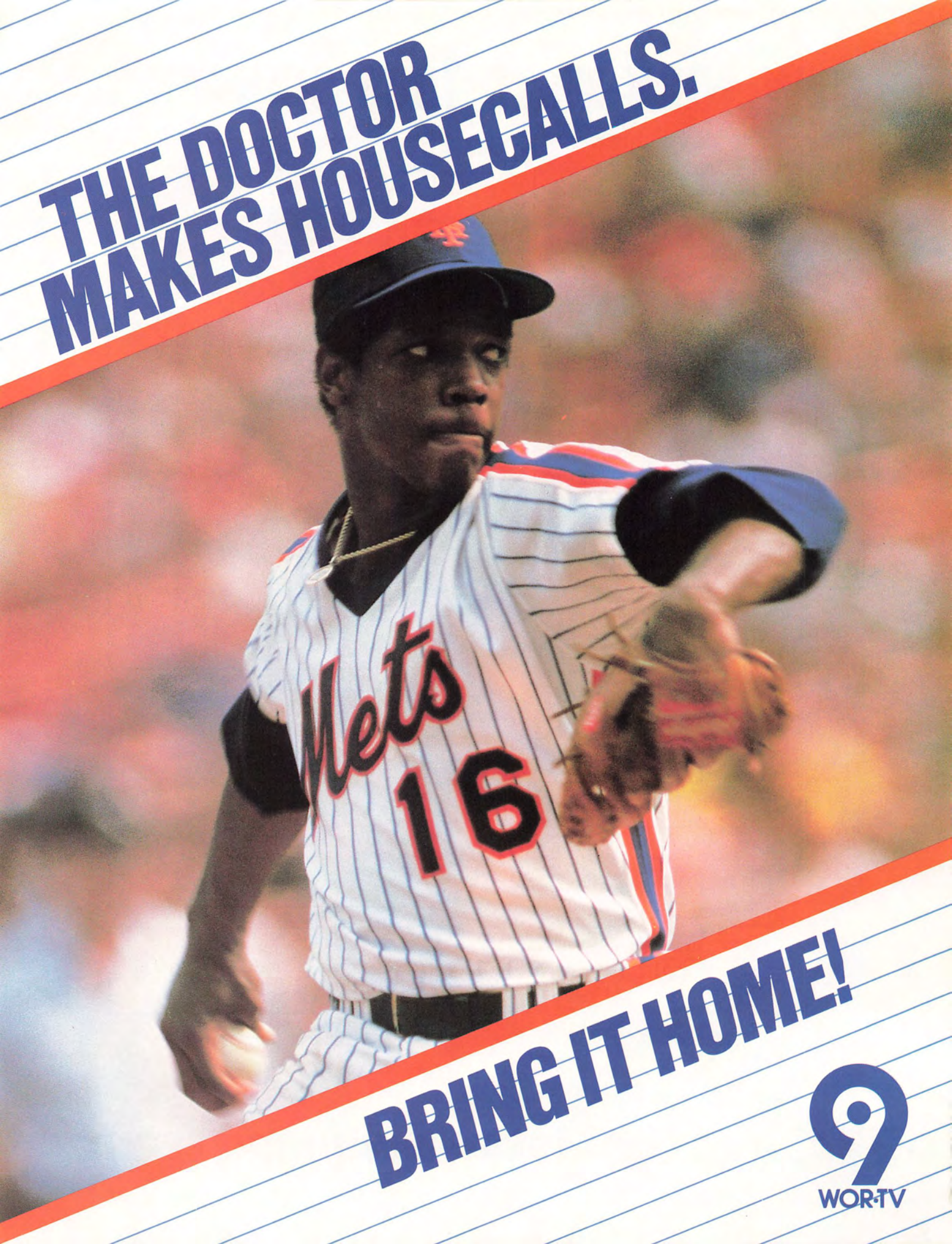

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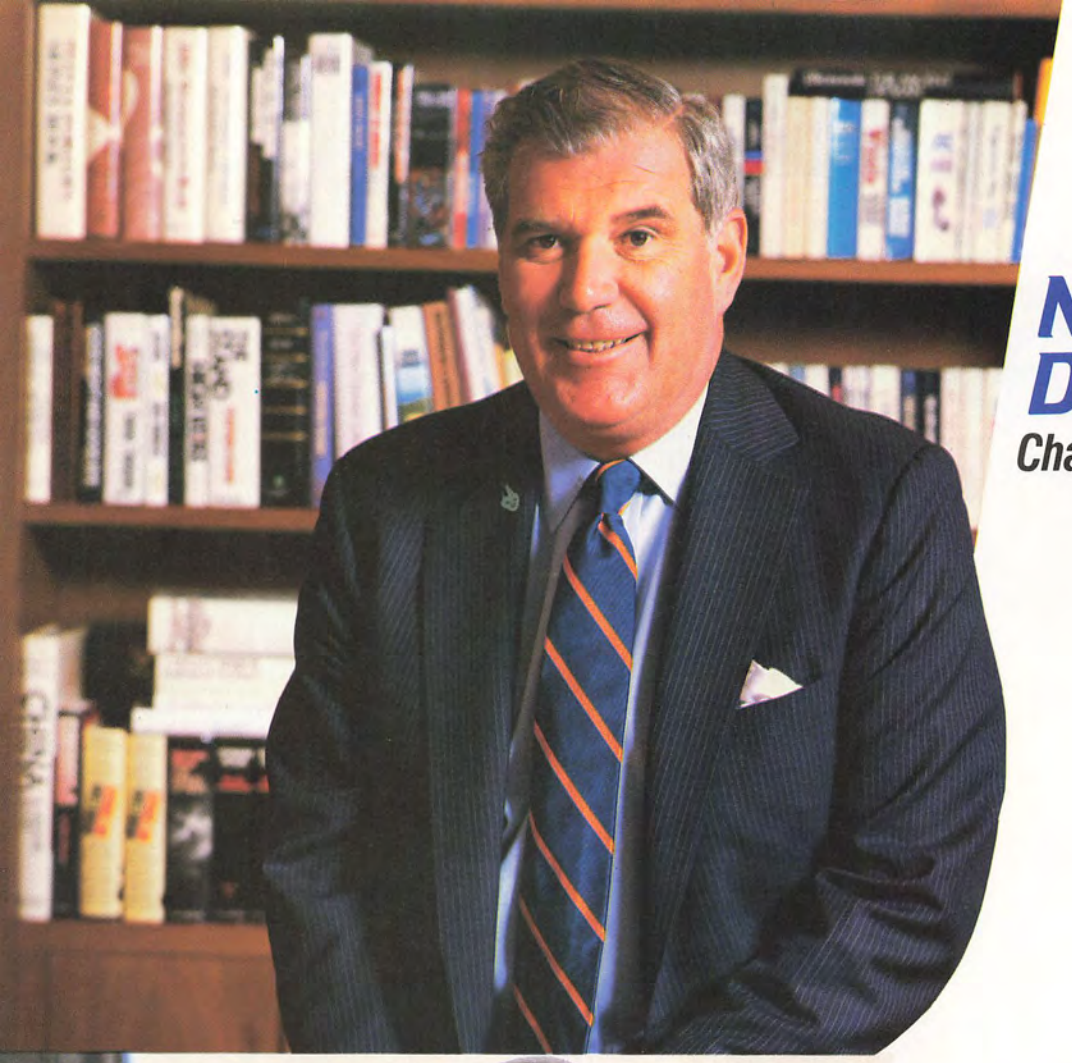

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Bob Scheffing 1970-74

Joe McDonald 1975-79

Frank Cashen
General Manager

GM's PAST AND PRESENT

Even with his unerring proficiency for linking one conspicuous word after another, there's no way the late Gene Fowler was alluding to baseball general managers when he suggested the building of castles in the air tends to make architects of us all.

That's because such illusionary edifices are fashioned by dreams. And as any GM worth his weight in waiver lists knows, the ultimate construction of a winning ballclub demands realities rather than reveries.

Frank Cashen subscribes to that and in his more than two decades of front office service has come to accept it as one of the game's most enduring tenets. Unfortunately—and the Mets' final resting place in some past National League standings certifies it—not all Cashen's predecessors readily attested to the proven fact that successful rosters are artfully crafted by prudence and perseverance and not whim or fantasy.

As the Mets embark on their 25th season, one that circumstance and constancy indicates could be a pleasurable one, the indefatigable Cashen has an opportunity to sample the same fruits Johnny Murphy savored in 1969 and Bob Scheffing tasted in 1973. Both were extolled because those were the years in which the Mets celebrated pennants.

The 1969 edition, of course, went all the way, an unpredictable happening that even today tends to disturb Cashen's otherwise orderly mien. For on that occasion he was the general manager of the Baltimore Orioles, the luckless victims of the Mets' unexpected and unyielding onslaught.

Prior to Cashen's ascendancy to the office of Mets' GM, the post had been filled by five other men, each of varied skills and backgrounds. Scheffing and Murphy advanced to executive status via the playing field, while George Weiss, Bing Devine, Joe McDonald and Cashen elevated themselves through front office toil.

Weiss, although performing the function of general manager, never formally adopted the title because of a prior contract that prescribed his future baseball duties following his unwelcome (by Weiss) severance from the Yankees.

Weiss was the Yankees' GM from October, 1947 through the 1960 season. During that span the club won 10 pennants and seven world championships and the portly, usually inscrutable Weiss manipulated the players with a firm, unyielding hand.

The fledgling Mets, then in the throes of composition for their entry into the National league in 1962, hired Weiss to operate the new franchise. Under the terms of his dismissal the Yankees prohibited his serving as someone else's general manager but the Mets neatly circumvented that clause by hiring him as their president.

Weiss' association with the Mets lasted five seasons and while the turnstiles hummed a merry tune, the ballclub was an anvil chorus. Unable to coerce rivals into favorable player trades, as he had when he was directing the lordly and powerful Yankees, Weiss produced tailenders when he finally stepped down in November, 1966, the vibrant Devine replaced him.

Devine, who'd assisted Weiss for two seasons, had long been a valued member of the Cardinals' hierarcy prior to shifting to Shea Stadium following the 1964 season. Never really comfortable in the Flushing ballpark—he frequently commuted to his St. Louis home on weekends—Devine hurriedly zipped the suitcase he'd never really unpacked when the Cardinals beckoned following the 1967 season.

Despite almost daily player maneuvers—the Mets employed a National League record 54 players, 27 of whom were pitchers—Devine's 1967 edition wallowed in 10th place, 40½ lengths behind.

Murphy, famed as the Yankees' bullpen fireman of the 1930s and 1940s, became the Mets' head man in December, 1967. A native New Yorker and a Fordham University graduate, Murphy had begun his front office career in the Red Sox farm department and when the Mets came to being he shifted to an administrative post with them.

Friendly but businesslike, Murphy was given the title of general manager and with Gil Hodges, recently named Mets' manager, combined to concoct the miracle the Mets conjured in 1969. The tinsel hadn't tarnished and the confetti was still swirling along lower Broadway when a massive coronary ended the 61-year-old Murphy's life on January 14, 1970.

The club again reached into its organization for a replacement and Scheffing, a one-time National League catcher and former manager of the Cubs and Tigers, was elevated to the GM post. Scheffing, whom Devine had brought into the Mets' fold as director of player personnel in 1966, served as general manager through the 1974 season.

An Arizona resident and an avid golfer, Scheffing, whose often friendly manner belied his baseball nickname of "Grump," shared the joys of the 1973 pennant with manager Yogi Berra. But following the club's fifth place sag in 1974, Scheffing voluntarily relinquished his position and returned to his Scottsdale acreage with the title of Special Consultant.

McDonald became the newly-minted GM. As a schoolboy he turned stiles at Ebbets Field and following his graduation from Fordham, an Air Force hitch and a tour with golf impressario Fred Corcoran, McDonald joined the Mets as a statistician for the club's radio and TV announcers in 1962.

That winter he graduated into the front office and advanced steadily through the organization until he became Scheffing's valued assistant. One of McDonald's first moves as GM was the acquisition of Joe Torre from St. Louis. His tenure as GM lasted until 1980 when Nelson Doubleday and his associates purchased the franchise from the Payson heirs.

McDonald later took the same route as Devine and accepted employment with the Cardinals.

Shortly after the Mets became Doubleday Sports Inc., Cashen was enrolled as Executive Vice President, General Manager and Chief Operating Officer. He was immediately confronted with an Augean task and while toiling with his myriad labors Cashen never wavered despite rips from a malevolent segment of the media and the vitriolic remarks of impatient fans.

What the future holds remains to be seen. But because of what has been transpiring with the Mets of late it's reasonable to assume the ballclub and its adherents are no longer building castles in the air.

There's a reality about the Mets now and it's the kind then even a staunch realist like Frank Cashen will admit is the stuff of which dreams are made.

DAVEY JOHNSON

Davey Johnson just loves to compete…whether it be on the field, in his realty office, on the golf course, fishing, hunting, or just playing bridge.

For the Mets manager, there can be nothing that tops the exhilarating feeling of winning, no matter what the endeavor.

So on the one hand, Johnson is extremely proud of his accomplishments during his first two years of directing the Mets. His 188-136 record over 1984-85 is the best of any club in the National League. The Mets have finished in second place in the NL East in each of the last two years, and their 98-game win total last year was the second-best in club history.

But on the other hand, Johnson begins the 1986 season with his sense of mission still intact, because his club has yet to finish first.

"On the opening day of spring training, I gathered everyone together in the locker room and had a simple message," he recalled. "I just told the players that in all my years in the game, I had never been associated with a team that had so much talent in one place. I just told the guys that we had enough ability to win if we just worried about ourselves. I said 'Don't be concerned what other clubs do. Just worry about number one.' If we do that, we can be playing ball in October."

The former second baseman had a 13-year big league playing career with the Orioles, Braves, Phillies and Cubs. He was a member of the Orioles' World Championship clubs in 1966 and 1970, was named to the All-Star Game four times, and won an AL Gold Glove award three times.

He's known nothing but success as a manager, winning league titles in each of his three years as a minor league skipper. Davey won championships with Jackson (Texas League) and Tidewater (International League) in the Mets' system, before taking over the big club for the 1984 season.

Which brings us back to the matter of that one unfulfilled goal…

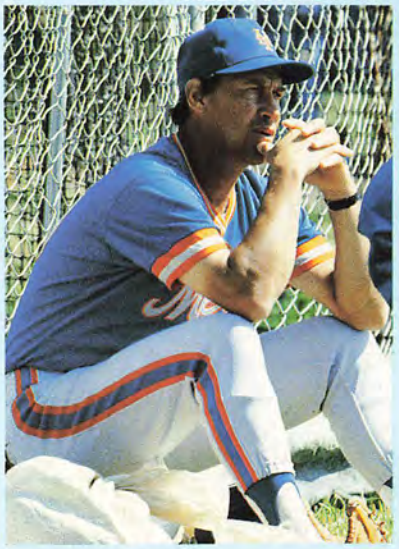
"Lets put it this way," says Davey. "I'm kind of tired of catching the bouquets at the wedding. I don't want to be the best man again this year."

AND HIS COACHES

BILL ROBINSON

GREG PAVLICK

MEL STOTTLEMYRE



BUD HARRELSON

VERN HOSCHEIT

BILL ROBINSON

That the Mets tied club records last year with a .257 team average and 695 runs scored and fell just shy of another mark with 134 homers was due in no small measure to the tutoring of batting coach Bill Robinson. Robby, now in his third year with the Mets, had a .258 lifetime average with 166 homers in a 14-year career with the Phillies, Pirates, Yankees and Braves.

GREG PAVLICK

The long wait finally paid off for Greg Pavlick in 1985. After 14 years in the Mets minor league system—seven as a player and seven as a coach—Greg made it to the majors when he was named assistant pitching coach at the tail end of spring training. A former pitcher himself, Pav was the Mets' second choice in the secondary phase of the January, 1971 free agent draft.

BUD HARRELSON

The heart of the Mets' infield during the championship seasons of '69 and '73, former shortstop Bud Harrelson returned to the Mets as third base coach in May of 1985. After his 15-year major league career, Buddy managed in the Mets farm system in 1984 and early 1985, winning the NY-Penn League title with Little Falls in '84.

VERN HOSCHEIT

He's done it all, heard it all and seen it all. Vern Hoscheit—former player, manager, general manager, scout and League president—enters his third year as commander-in-chief of the Mets' bullpen. Vern, who entered pro ball as a player back in 1941, was a member of the Oakland coaching staff when the A's won three straight world titles in 1972-74.

MEL STOTTLEMYRE

Winner of 164 games during his distinguished 11-year career with the Yankees, Mel Stottlemyre is in his third year as Mets' pitching coach. Mel is the man in charge of one of baseball's best young staffs, as the Mets led the NL with 1,039 strikeouts in 1985 and placed third with a 3.11 ERA.

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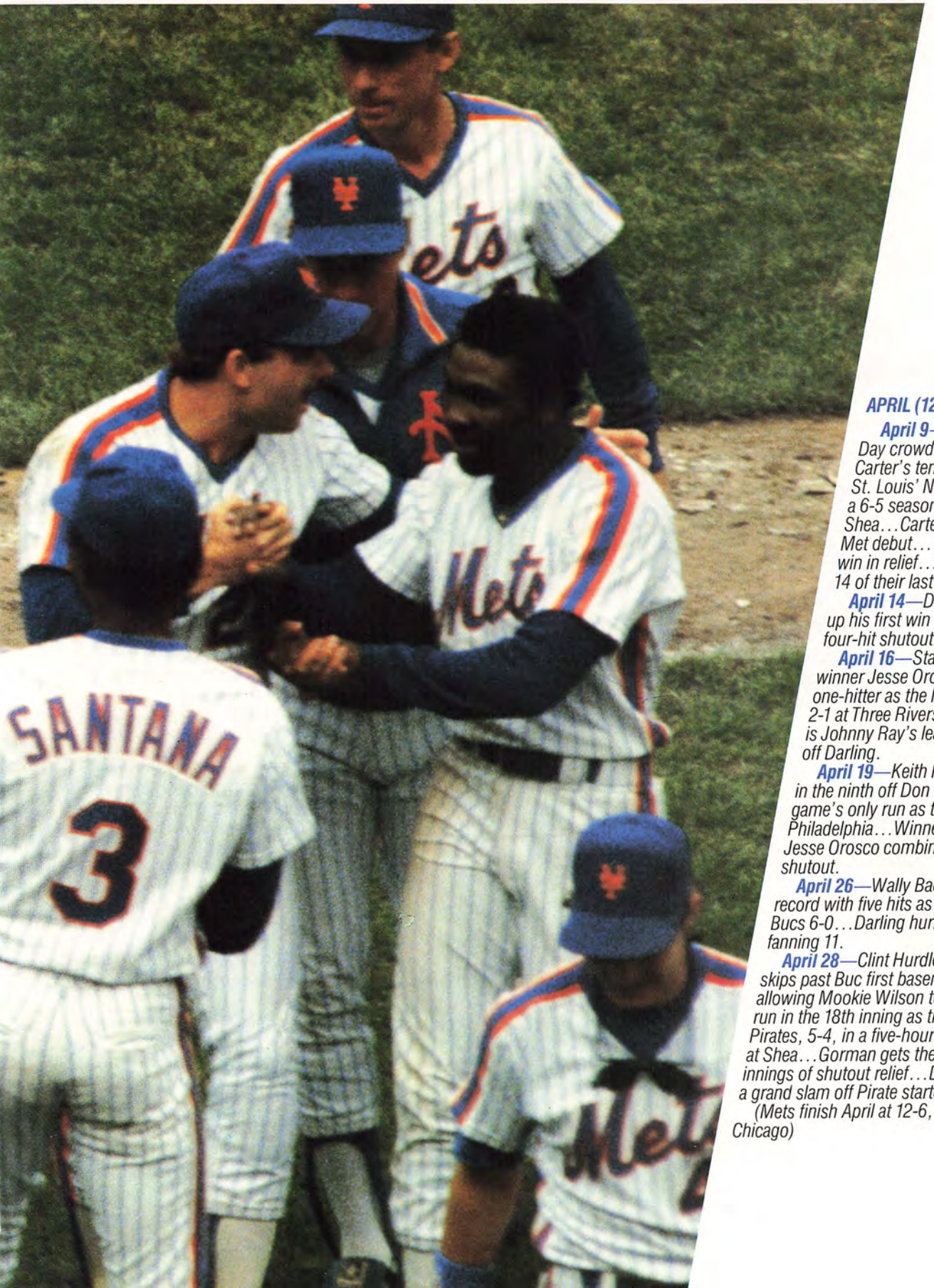
1985 METS HIGHLIGHTS



APRIL (12-6)

April 9—*Before an Opening Day crowd of 46,781, Gary Carter's tenth-inning homer off St. Louis' Neil Allen gives the Mets a 6-5 season-opening victory at Shea…Carter goes 2-for-4 in his Met debut… Tom Gorman gets the win in relief… Mets have now won 14 of their last 16 openers.*

April 14—*Dwight Gooden chalks up his first win of the season, a 4-0, four-hit shutout over the Reds at Shea.*

April 16—*Starter Ron Darling and winner Jesse Orosco combine on a one-hitter as the Mets nip the Pirates, 2-1 at Three Rivers…The only Pirate hit is Johnny Ray's leadoff single in the first off Darling.*

April 19—*Keith Hernandez' RBI single in the ninth off Don Carman drives in the game's only run as the Mets win, 1-0 at Philadelphia…Winner Gooden and reliever Jesse Orosco combine on a three-hit shutout.*

April 26—*Wally Backman ties a club record with five hits as the Mets blank the Bucs 6-0…Darling hurls a five-hitter, fanning 11.*

April 28—*Clint Hurdle's hard-hit grounder skips past Buc first baseman Jason Thompson, allowing Mookie Wilson to score the winning run in the 18th inning as the Mets beat the Pirates, 5-4, in a five-hour, 21-minute marathon at Shea…Gorman gets the win with seven innings of shutout relief…Darryl Strawberry belts a grand slam off Pirate starter Mike Bielecki.*

(Mets finish April at 12-6, tied for first with Chicago)

MAY (15-10)

May 3—*In his second major league at bat, Len Dykstra belts a two-run homer off Mario Soto to ignite a 9-4 win at Cincinnati…Ed Lynch posts his first win of the season.*

May 7—*Carter blasts his eighth career grand slam, an eighth-inning shot off Bruce Sutter, to break a 1-1 tie and lift the Mets to a 5-3 win over the Braves at Shea.*

May 8—*Lynch hurls his first major league shutout, blanking the Braves on five hits, 4-0.*

May 11—*Strawberry suffers torn ligaments of the inner ulnar collateral of the right thumb while diving for Juan Samuel's liner in the third inning against Philadelphia…The injury will sideline Darryl until June 28…Winner Sid Fernandez (called up from Tidewater earlier in the day) and reliever McDowell combine on a one-hitter to beat the Phillies, 4-0, as the only Phillie hit is Von Hayes' single in the fourth off Fernandez.*

May 19—*In his first major league start since July 23, 1983, Gorman allows only three hits in six innings of work in beating the Giants, 3-2, before 50,369 at Shea.*

May 30—*Gooden fans 14 in beating the Giants, 2-1 at Candlestick…It's the first victory in Dwight's 14-game winning streak.*

(Mets finish May at 27-16, first place, one game up)

JUNE (11-18)

June 8—*After being in first place since May 7, the Mets fall from the top as they're shut out by the Cardinals' John Tudor, 1-0 at Shea…Tommy Herr's homer in the ninth off Gorman accounts for the game's only run.*

June 11—*Philadelphia posts a resounding 26-7 victory over the Mets at Veterans Stadium, establishing records for the most runs, hits (27) and biggest margin of victory ever against New York…Von Hayes cracks two homers in the first inning, including a grand slam…Juan Samuel has a five hit night.*

June 12—*The Mets rebound from the previous night's pounding as a four-run rally in the 11th results in a 7-3 win over the Phillies…John Christensen's two-run homer caps the rally…Rick Aguilera posts the victory with two innings of shutout relief in his major league debut.*

June 17-20—*After having lost 11 of their last 14 games, the Mets sweep a four-game series against the Cubs at Shea…Scores are 2-0, 5-1, 1-0 and 5-3…The first three games are complete game wins by Darling, Lynch and Gooden, the first time they've had three straight complete games since 1976…George Foster's 12th career grand slam highlights the final game win…Four-game series draws 172,292 to Shea for the highest-attended series in Mets history.*

June 30—*St. Louis completes a three-game sweep with a 2-1 win over the Mets in 11 innings at Busch Stadium…The Mets drop to fourth place, five games back.*

(Mets finish June at 38-34, fourth place, five games back)

JULY (21-7)

July 2—*The Mets break a six-game losing streak, and start a nine-game winning streak, with a 5-4 victory over the Pirates at Shea…The nine-game streak will be their longest win streak since they won 10 in a row in 1976.*

July 4—*In a rain-delayed, six hour, 10-minute marathon that doesn't end until 3:55 a.m. (the latest-ending game in major league history), the Mets outlast the Braves in 19, 16-13 at Atlanta…New York establishes a club record with 28 hits…Carter has a five-hit game, meanwhile Hernandez becomes the first Met to hit for the cycle since Mike Phillips in 1976…Twice in extra innings, the Mets were one out away from victory, but homers by Terry Harper in the 13th and Rick Camp in the 18th kept this incredible game going…Ray Knight's RBI double ignited a five-run, 19th inning rally…Ron Darling, making his first relief outing since his freshman year at Yale, pitched the final inning to preserve the win for Gorman.*

July 10—*The Mets cap their nine-game win streak as Aguilera goes all the way to beat the Reds, 2-1 on a six-hitter at Riverfront.*

July 14—*In the last game before the All-Star break, Gooden hurls a five-hitter and fans 11 in blanking the Astros, 1-0 at the Astrodome…Ronn Reynolds scores the game's only run on Bill Doran's error in the eighth…It caps a 10-1 road trip, establishing club records for the most wins and best winning percentage (.909) on a road trip.*

July 20—*The Mets have their first, five-homer game since 1970 in beating the Braves, 16-4 at Shea…Strawberry (2), Howard Johnson, Danny Heep and Hurdle all hit home runs…Strawberry has a career-high seven RBI.*

July 21—*New York follows the previous day's 16-4 win with a 15-10 triumph over the Braves, as Foster has a homer and five RBI and Terry Leach chalks up the win in his first major league start since October 1, 1982…The Mets establish a club record for the most runs (31) in two consecutive games.*

July 27—*The Mets establish a club record for the most runs in a doubleheader (23) in sweeping the Astros, 16-4 and 7-3 at Shea…Knight has four RBI in the opener, while Bill Latham posts his first major league win in the nightcap.*

(Mets finish July at 59-41, second place, two games back)

AUGUST (17-11)

August 3—*Hernandez' two-out, RBI double off Lee Smith ties the game in the ninth, and Johnson's solo homer off George Frazier in the tenth gives the Mets a 5-4 win at Chicago.*

August 4—*Gooden breaks Tom Seaver's 1969 club record with his 11th victory in a row, going all the way on a five-hitter to beat the Cubs, 4-1.*

August 5—*Strawberry ties a club record with three homers in a 7-2 win at Chicago…It's the first, three-homer game for a Met since Claudell Washington in 1980…Darryl ties another club mark with 13 total bases…The Mets vault into first place for the first time since June 21…They would be on top of the NL East for 16 of the next 17 days.*

August 8—*The Mets collect 20 hits in a 14-7 win at Montreal…Hernandez has a five-hit game.*

August 13—*The Mets cap their second, nine game winning streak of the season with a 4-2 win over the Phillies.*

August 20—*Gooden ties a career high with 16 strikeouts in blanking the Giants, 3-0 at Shea…Dwight joins Herb Score as the only major leaguers to strike out 200 or more batters in both of their first two seasons.*

August 22—*As a last-minute replacement for Fernandez (who suffered from dizzy spells just prior to the game), Leach hurls a three-hit shutout in beating the Giants, 7-0.*

August 25—*Gooden becomes the youngest pitcher in modern major league history (20 years, nine months, nine days) to win 20 games as he beats the Padres, 9-3 at Shea…Dwight is the first Met 20-game winner since Jerry Koosman in 1976…McDowell saves it with three innings of shutout, one-hit relief…It's the final victory in Dwight's 14-game winning streak.*

(Mets finish August at 76-52, second place, two games back)

SEPTEMBER (19-9)

September 1—*Hernandez strikes perhaps the season's most dramatic hit, a two-run, pinch homer in the ninth off Mark Davis to give the Mets a last-gasp, 4-3 win over the Giants at Candlestick.*

September 6—*Strawberry's two-run double in the 13th off Tom Niedenfuer is the winning blow in the Mets' 2-0 triumph over the Dodgers…Gooden hurls nine scoreless innings, fanning ten in a no-decision effort…Valenzuela holds the Mets scoreless for 11 innings.*

September 10-12—*Mets take two of three from St. Louis to move into first place by one game…Johnson's grand slam leads the Mets to a 5-4 win in the series opener…Cesar Cedeno's homer lifts the Cards to a 1-0, 10-inning triumph in the middle game…Hernandez' RBI single in the ninth the following day off Ken Dayley gives the Mets a 7-6 win in the series finale.*

September 21—*Gooden beats the Pirates, 12-1, although his shutout streak ends at 31 innings, two-thirds of an inning shy of the club mark…He also belts his first career homer, a three-run shot off Rick Rhoden.*

September 27—*The Mets fall 4½ games behind the Cards with eight to play after losing at Pittsburgh, 8-7…It completes a span in which they went 9-7 since the Cardinal series, to go from one game up on September 12 to 4½ back on September 27.*

September 28—*While Cards split with Expos in Montreal, Mets defeat Pirates, 3-1 to close the margin to four games with seven to play…Aguilera, McDowell and Orosco combine on a six-hitter…Save no. 70 for Orosco moves him into second place on the Met list.*

September 29—*Johnson's homer off Cecilio Guante ties it in the ninth, and Carter's two-run shot off Larry McWilliams is the game-winner in the tenth as the Mets get by the Pirates, 9-7 in must-win game at Pittsburgh…Meanwhile, Expos defeat St. Louis again…With six games to go, the margin is three games as the Mets head for St. Louis and the make-or-break three-game series against the Cards.*

(Mets finish September at 95-61, second place, three games back)

OCTOBER (3-3)

October 1—*Strawberry's 11th inning homer off Ken Dayley is the game's only run as the Mets cut the Cards' lead to two games with a 1-0 victory at St. Louis… Darling allows four hits in nine shutout innings of work…Orosco notches the win in relief.*

October 2—*Gooden goes all the way, fanning 10 in posting his 24th win of the season…The Mets close the margin to one game with a 5-2 win over the Cards…Foster homers.*

October 3—*Mets are thwarted in their attempt to sweep the Cards as St. Louis wins the crucial series finale, 4-3, to move two games up with three games left… St. Louis would clinch the NL East title on October 5, the next-to-last-day of the season.*

October 6—*Mets end their season with a 2-1 loss to Montreal at Shea…The final home attendance total is 2,751, 437; a record for New York City major league baseball…Mets salute their fans with a final post-game curtain call.*

(Mets finish at 98-64, second place, three games back)

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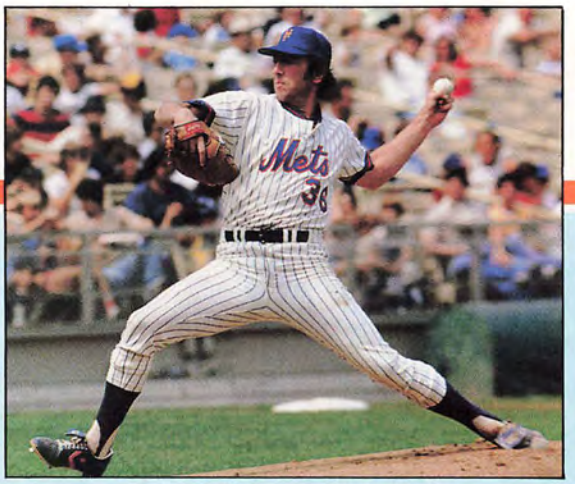
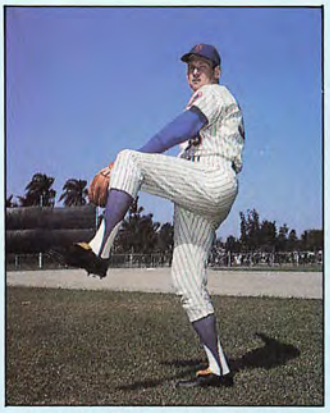
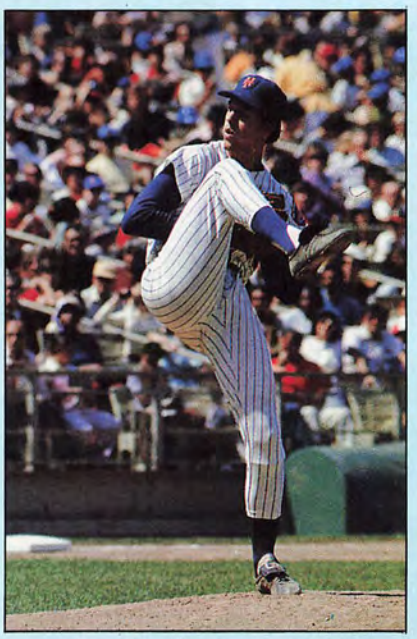


Jerry Koosman 1967-78

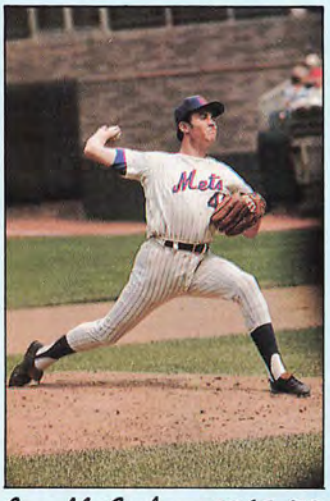


Dick Selma 1965-68

Ron Taylor 1967-71



Jon Matlack 1971-77



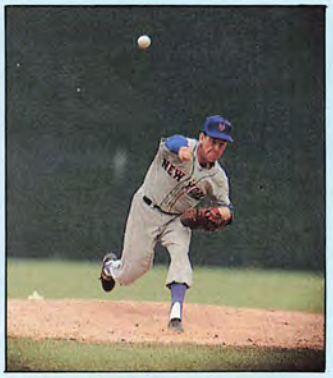
Jim McAndrew 1968-73

Jay Hook 1962-64

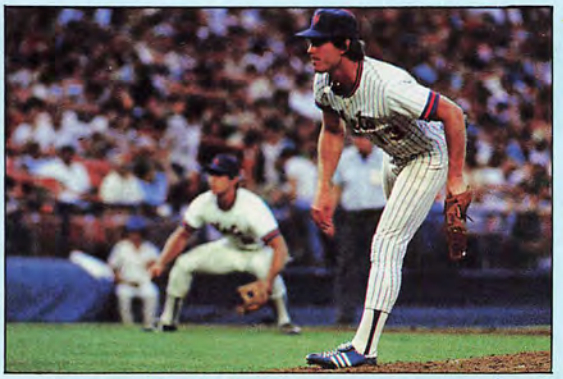
Bob Apodaca 1973-79

Gary Gentry 1969-72

Pat Zachry 1977-82

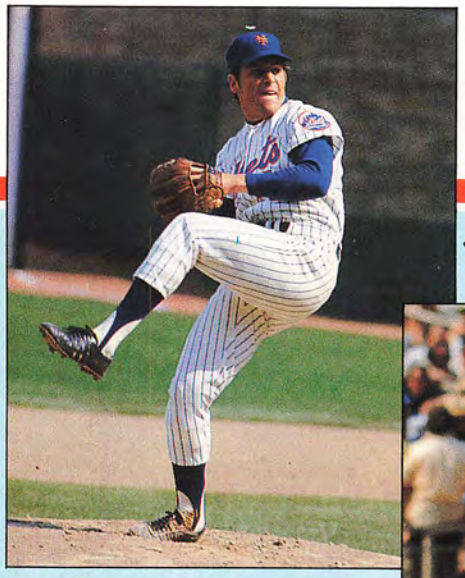


Carl Willey 1963-65

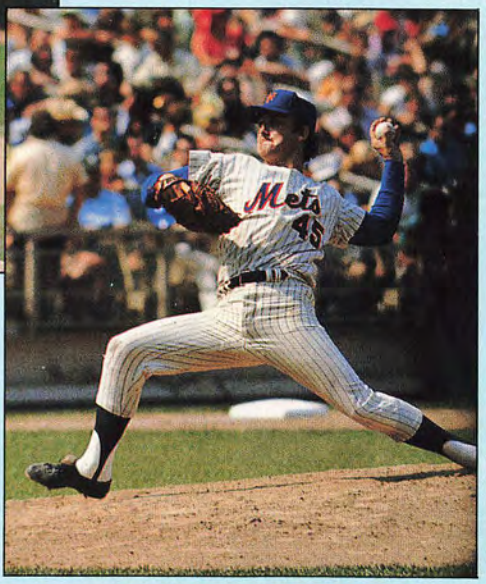


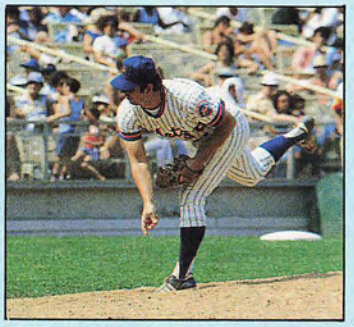
Neil Allen 1979-83

PITCHERS



Tom Seaver 1967-77, 1983





Skip Lockwood 1975-79

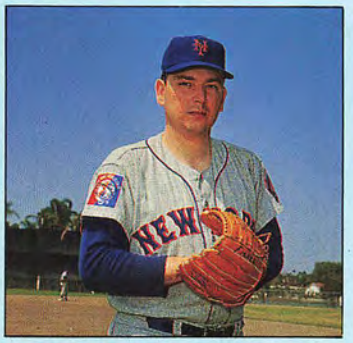
Al Jackson 1962-65, 1968-69

Tug McGraw
1965-67, 1969-74

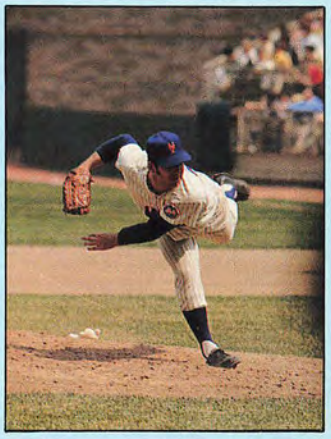
Nolan Ryan 1966, 1968-71

Roger Craig 1962-63

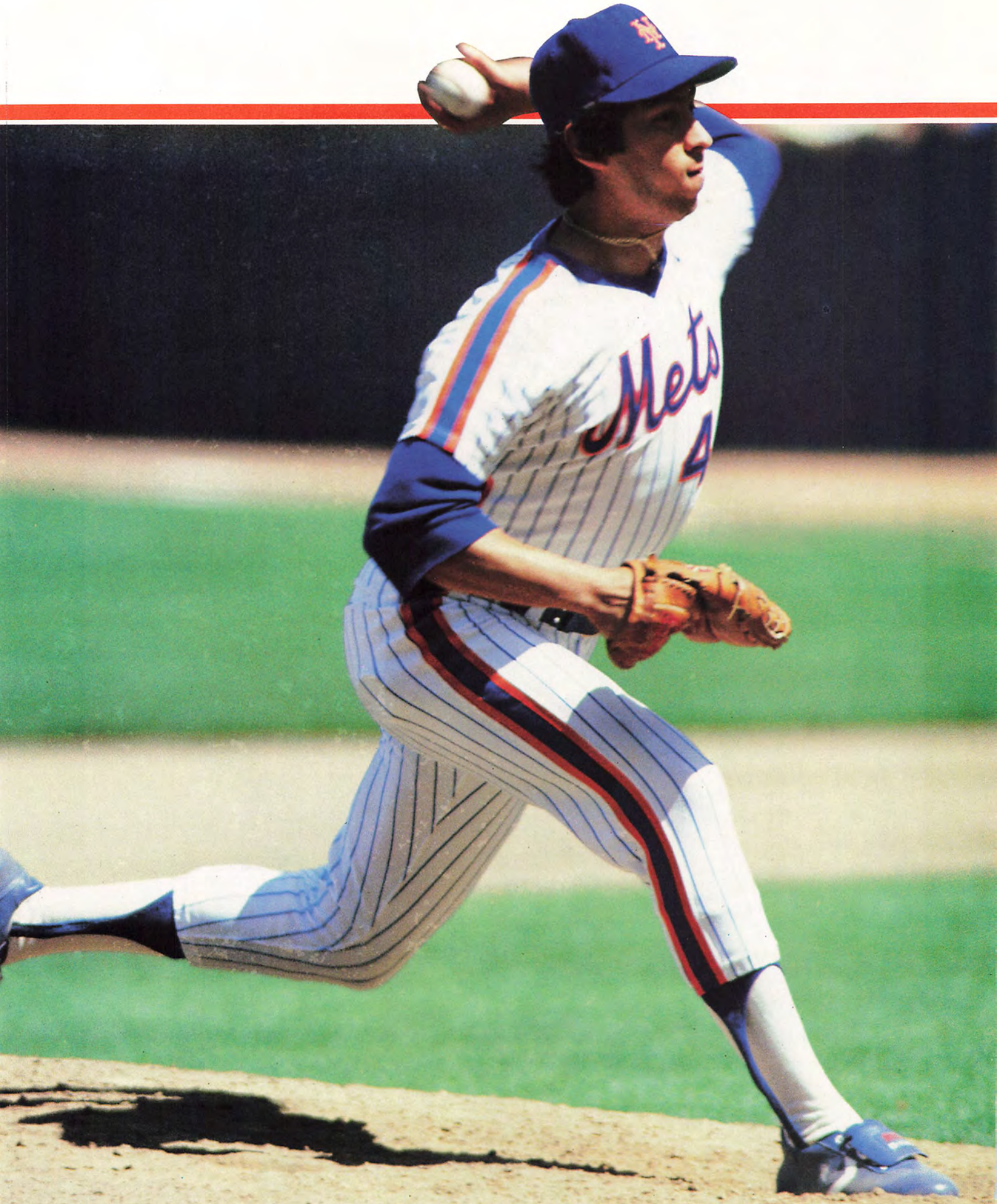
Craig Swan 1973-84



Jack Fisher 1964-67



Ray Sadecki
1970-74, 1977


Mets
4

JESSE OROSCO

47

Look out, Tug.

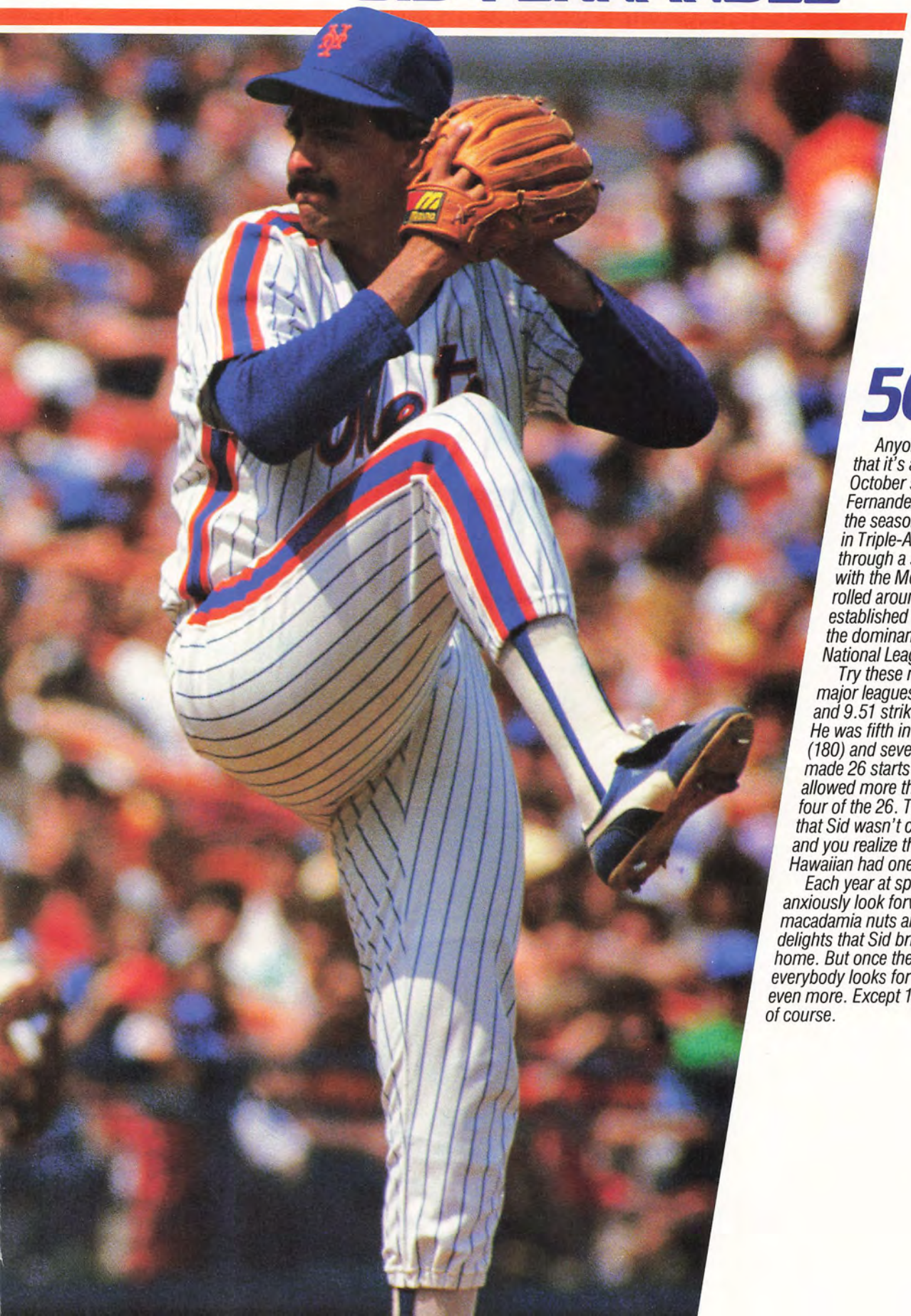
Jesse Orosco entered the season with 70 career saves, just 16 shy of passing Tug McGraw (at 85) and moving into first place on the all-time Mets list. Another Jesse Orosco-type season will put the Mets' relief ace over the top.

Of course, the veteran southpaw has had more than a few Jesse Orosco-type seasons. Last year, he tied Roger McDowell for the club lead with 17 saves, marking the third straight year he's either led the team or tied for the lead. He also chalked up eight relief wins, and moved into fifth place on the all-time Mets list with 256 appearances.

Entering his fifth full big league season, the two-time National League All-Star looks for another big year…and to rewrite some history in the process.

Mets
5

SID FERNANDEZ

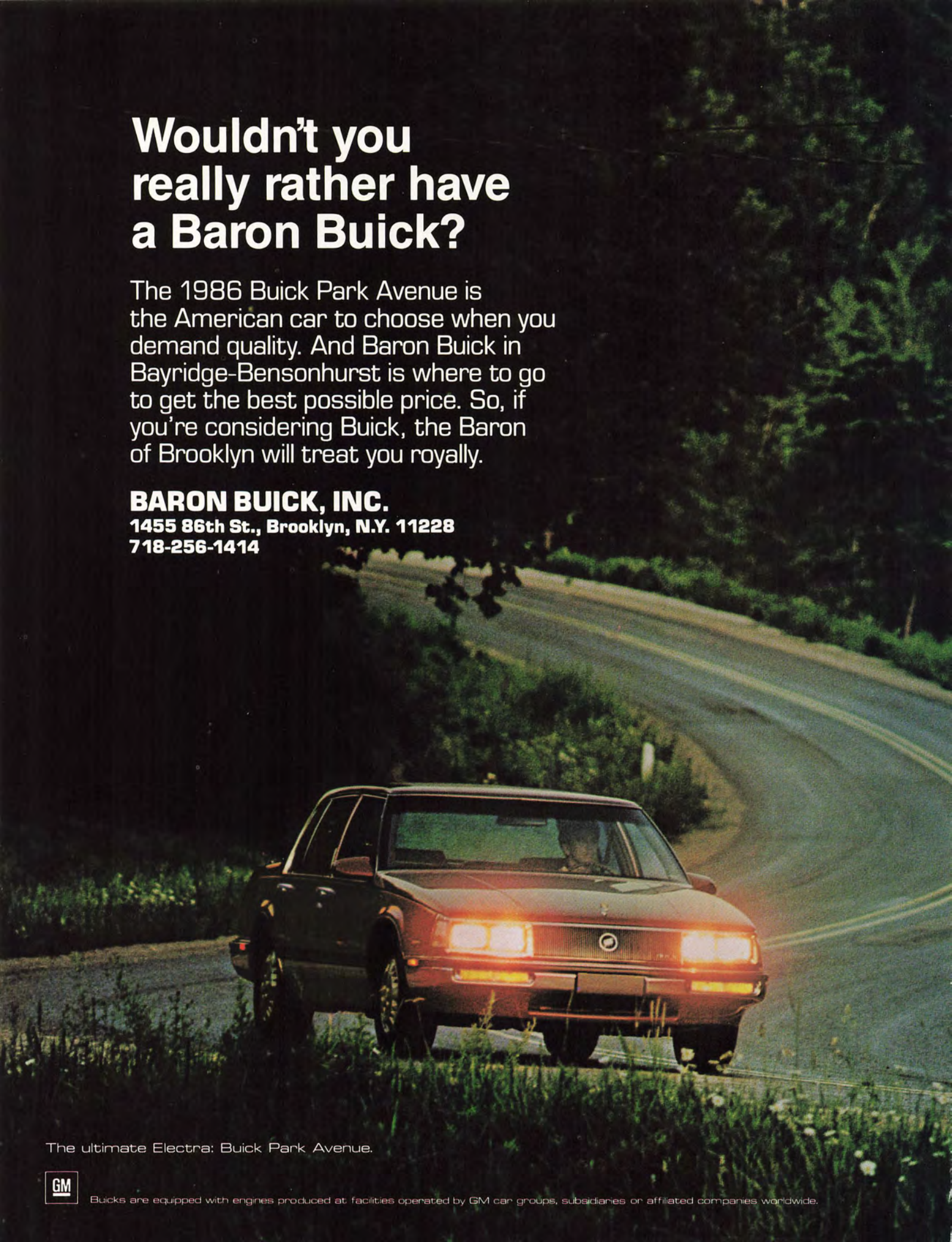


50

Anyone who doesn't think that it's a long way from April to October should consult the Sid Fernandez file, circa 1985. When the season began, Sid was down in Triple-A after struggling through a sub-par pre-season with the Mets. But when October rolled around, Sid had clearly established himself as one of the dominant lefthanders in the National League.

Try these numbers on: Sid led the major leagues by averaging 5.71 hits and 9.51 strikeouts per nine innings. He was fifth in the NL in strikeouts (180) and seventh in ERA (2.80). He made 26 starts for the Mets, and allowed more than three runs in only four of the 26. Take into consideration that Sid wasn't called up until May 11, and you realize that the 23-year-old Hawaiian had one heck of a season.

Each year at spring training, the Mets anxiously look forward to the pineapples, macadamia nuts and other culinary delights that Sid brings with him from home. But once the club heads north, everybody looks forward to his pitching even more. Except 11 other NL clubs, of course.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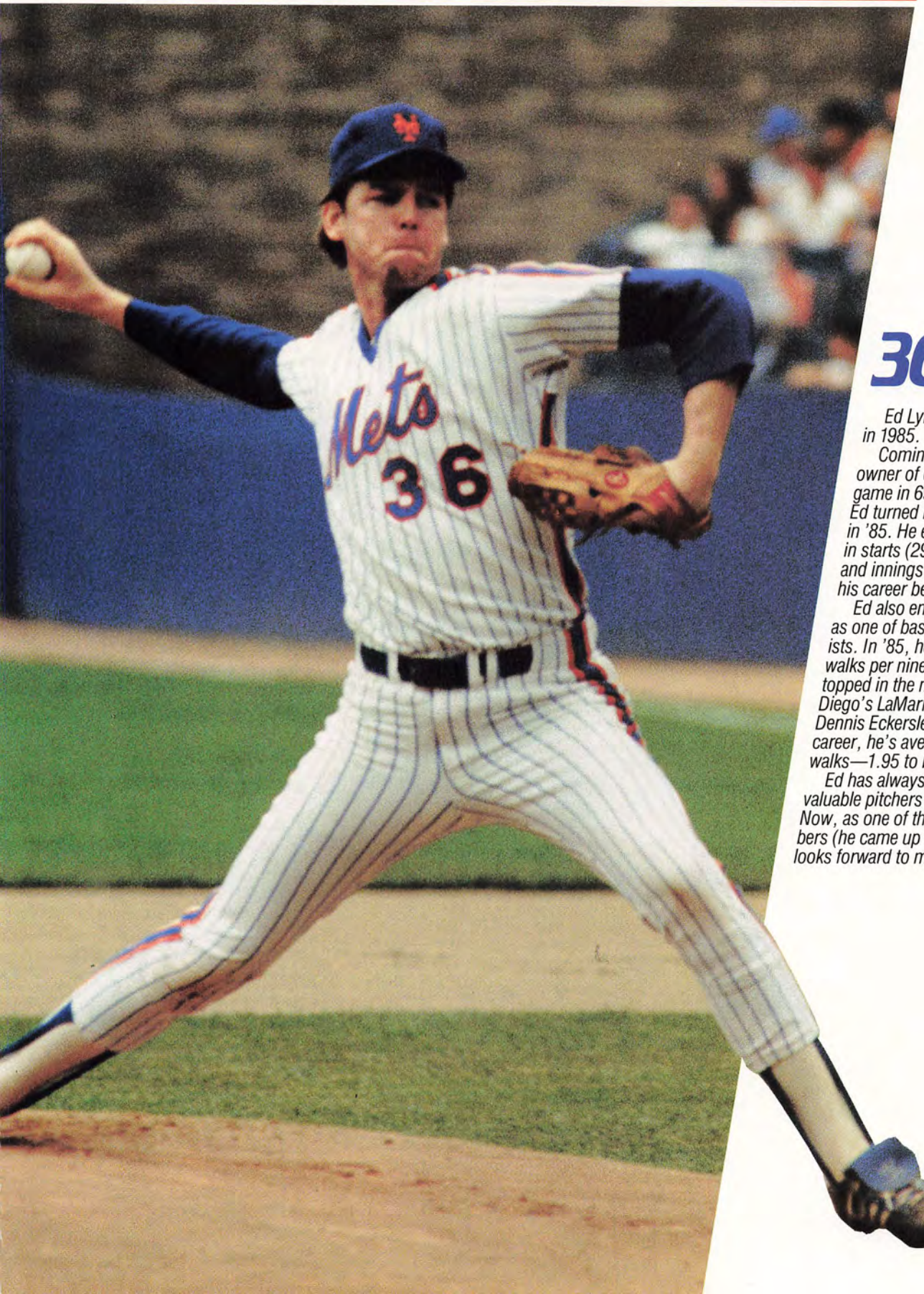
ED LYNCH



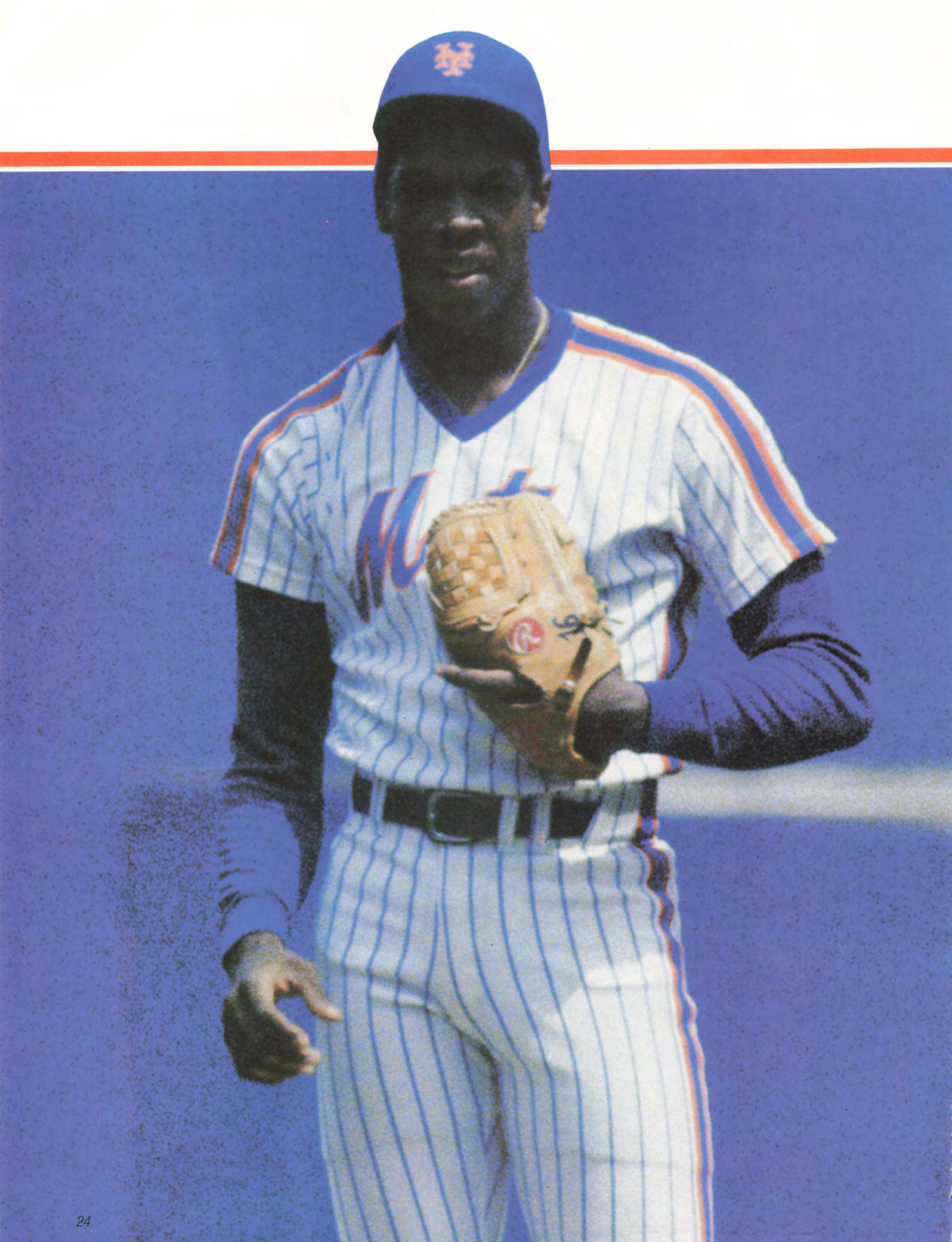
36

Ed Lynch came of age in 1985.

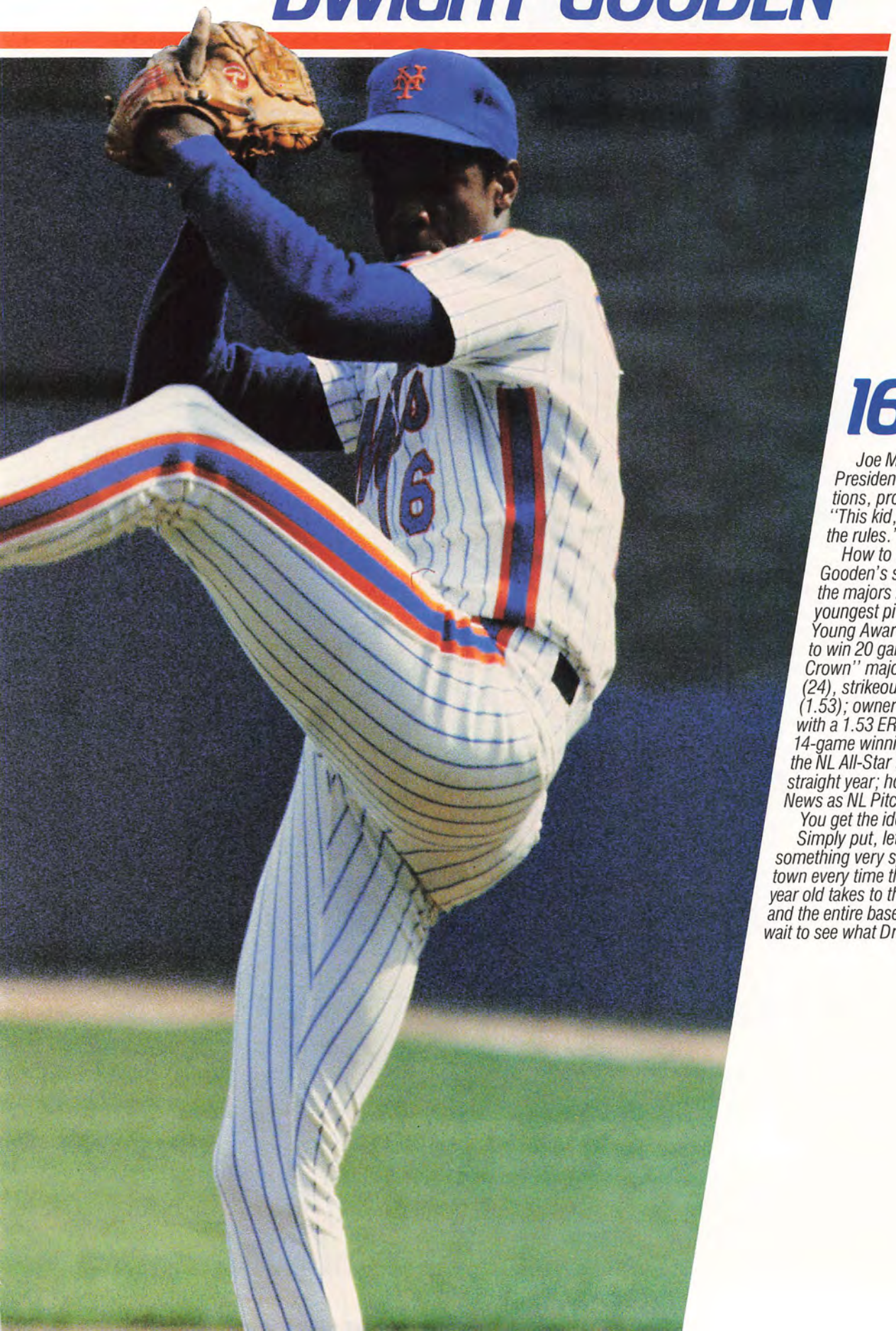
Coming into the season as the owner of only one complete game in 69 major league starts, Ed turned in six complete games in '85. He established career highs in starts (29), complete games and innings pitched (191), and tied his career best with 10 wins.

Ed also enhanced his reputation as one of baseball's top control artists. In '85, he averaged only 1.27 walks per nine innings, a figure topped in the majors only by San Diego's LaMarr Hoyt and the Cubs' Dennis Eckersley. For his major league career, he's averaging less than two walks—1.95 to be exact—per nine.

Ed has always been one of the most valuable pitchers on the Mets staff. Now, as one of the club's senior members (he came up to stay in mid-1981), he looks forward to more big things in 1986.



DWIGHT GOODEN



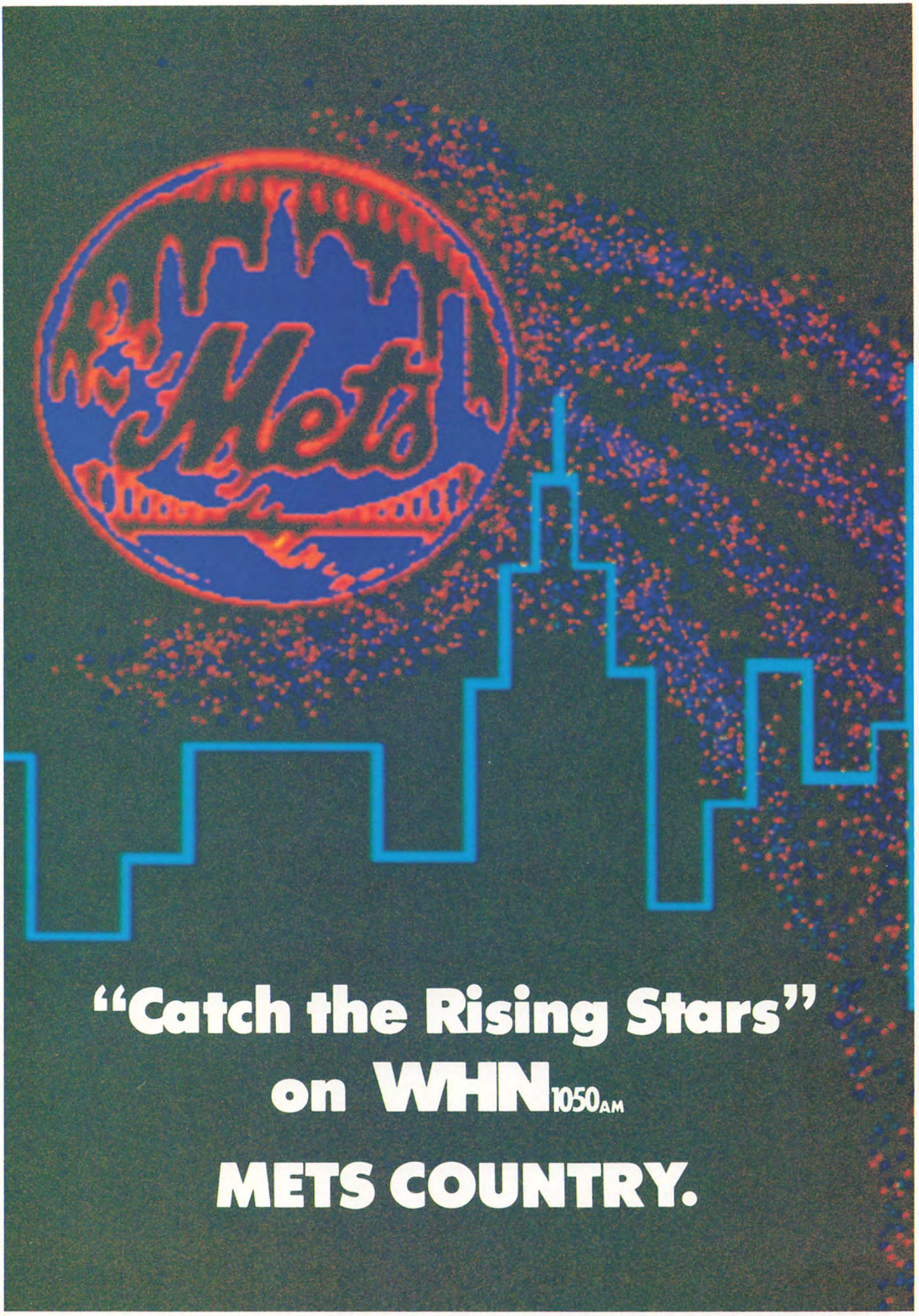
16

Joe McIlvaine, the Mets' Vice President for Baseball Operations, probably said it best. "This kid," he said, "breaks all the rules."

How to tell the story of Dwight Gooden's sophomore season in the majors in just a few lines? The youngest pitcher to win the Cy Young Award, the youngest pitcher to win 20 games, the "Triple Crown" major league leader in wins (24), strikeouts (268) and ERA (1.53); owner of Mets club records with a 1.53 ERA, eight shutouts and a 14-game winning streak; a member of the NL All-Star team for the second straight year; honored by The Sporting News as NL Pitcher of the Year…

You get the idea.

Simply put, let it just be stated that something very special happens in this town every time this extraordinary 21-year old takes to the mound. The Mets–and the entire baseball community–can't wait to see what Dr. K has in store for '86.


Mets
"Catch the Rising Stars"
on WHN 1050 AM
METS COUNTRY.

DOUG SISK

39

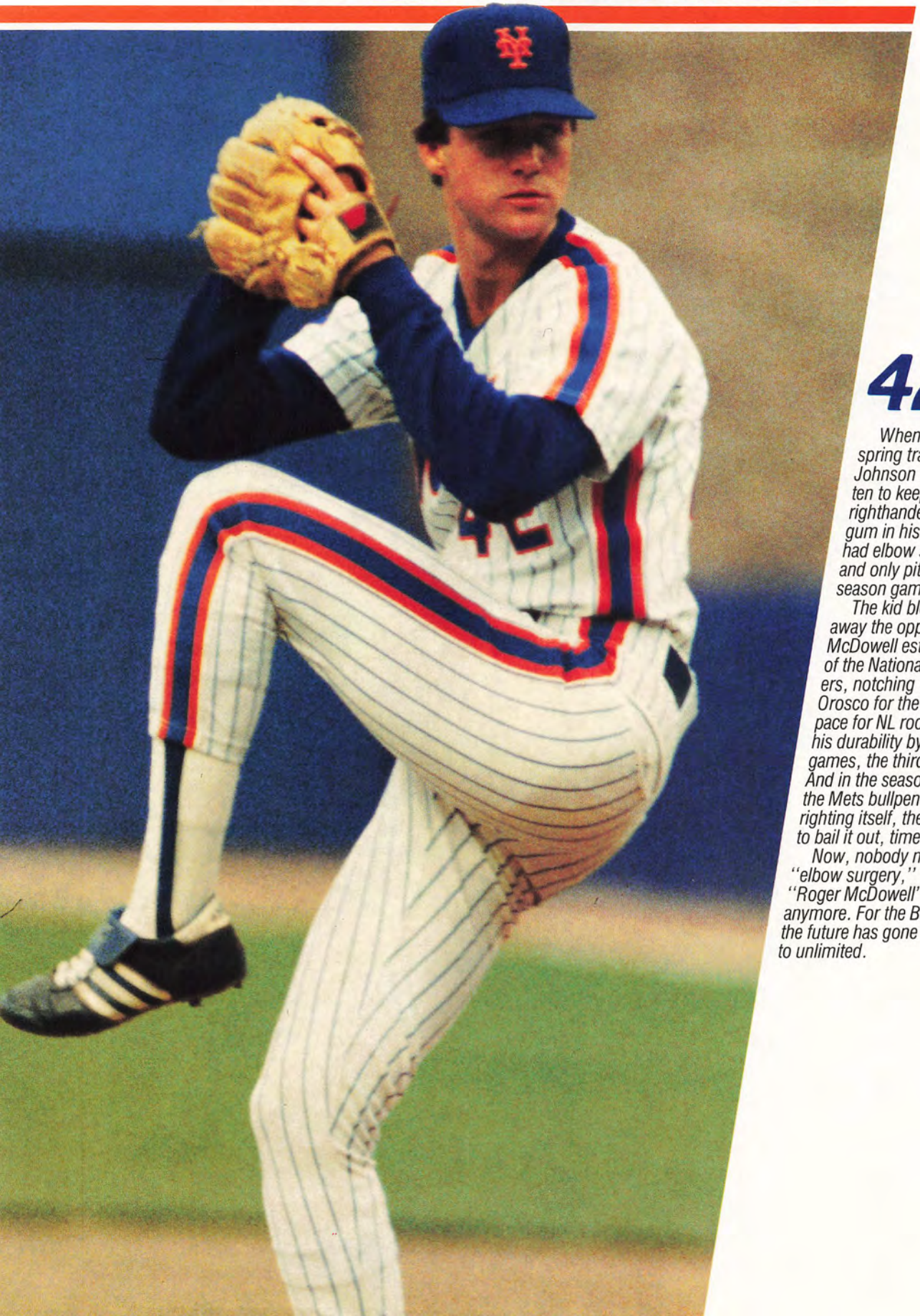
Doug Sisk hopes to look back on 1985 as The Year That Never Happened.

Pitching in pain for most of the season, Doug was 4-5 with just two saves in 42 outings for the Mets. He also had a brief May stint with Tidewater, his first stay in the minors since 1982.

Finally, in mid-September, x-rays revealed bone chips and spurs in his right elbow. Surgery was required, and Doug's season ended right there.

Dougie, of course, put together back-to-back standout seasons in 1983 and 1984, with 26 saves over the two years. He came to camp this year as a recent bridegroom (he married Lisa Michaelson in November), ready to prove that '85 was a nightmare long since forgotten.

ROGER McDOWELL



42

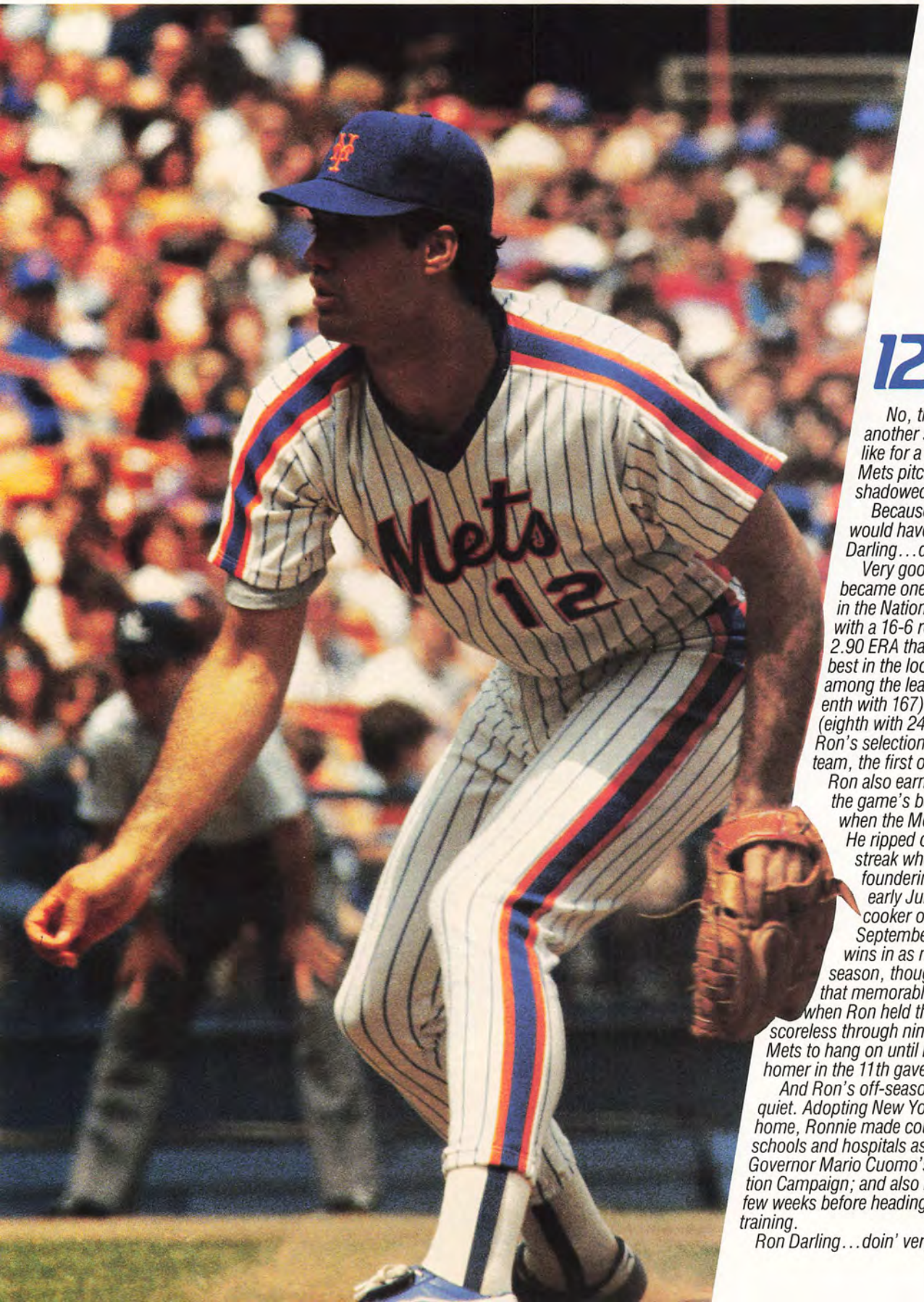
When the Mets gathered for spring training last year, Davey Johnson told anyone who'd listen to keep an eye on the slender righthander with the huge wad of gum in his cheek…the one who had elbow surgery the year before and only pitched in three regular season games down in double-A.

The kid blowing the bubbles blew away the opposition as well. Roger McDowell established himself as one of the National League's best relievers, notching 17 saves to tie Jesse Orosco for the club lead and set the pace for NL rookies as well. He proved his durability by appearing in 62 games, the third-most in Mets history. And in the season's early going, when the Mets bullpen was having trouble righting itself, there was the cool rookie to bail it out, time after time.

Now, nobody mentions the terms "elbow surgery," "inexperience" and "Roger McDowell" in the same breath anymore. For the Bubble Gum Kid, the future has gone from uncertain to unlimited.

Mets
12

RON DARLING



12

No, this isn't going to be another story about what it's like for a certain Yale-educated Mets pitcher to always be overshadowed by a certain Dr. K.

Because, as Casey Stengel would have put it, "Ron Darling…doin' very good."

Very good, indeed. Ronnie became one of the premier pitchers in the National League last season, with a 16-6 record, and a sparkling 2.90 ERA that was good for ninth-best in the loop. Darling was also among the leaders in strikeouts (seventh with 167) and innings pitched (eighth with 248). It all added up to Ron's selection to the NL All-Star team, the first of his young career.

Ron also earned his spurs as one of the game's best by coming through when the Mets needed him most. He ripped off a five-game win streak when the team was foundering through late May and early June. And in the pressure-cooker of late August and early September, Ron reeled off six wins in as many starts. His whole season, though, was capped off with that memorable night in St. Louis, when Ron held the red-hot Cardinals scoreless through nine innings, enabling the Mets to hang on until Darryl Strawberry's homer in the 11th gave them a vital 1-0 win.

And Ron's off-season was anything but quiet. Adopting New York as his year-round home, Ronnie made countless appearances at schools and hospitals as a co-chairman of Governor Mario Cuomo's Youth Drug Prevention Campaign; and also married Toni O'Reilly a few weeks before heading down to spring training.

Ron Darling…doin' very good.

BOB OJEDA

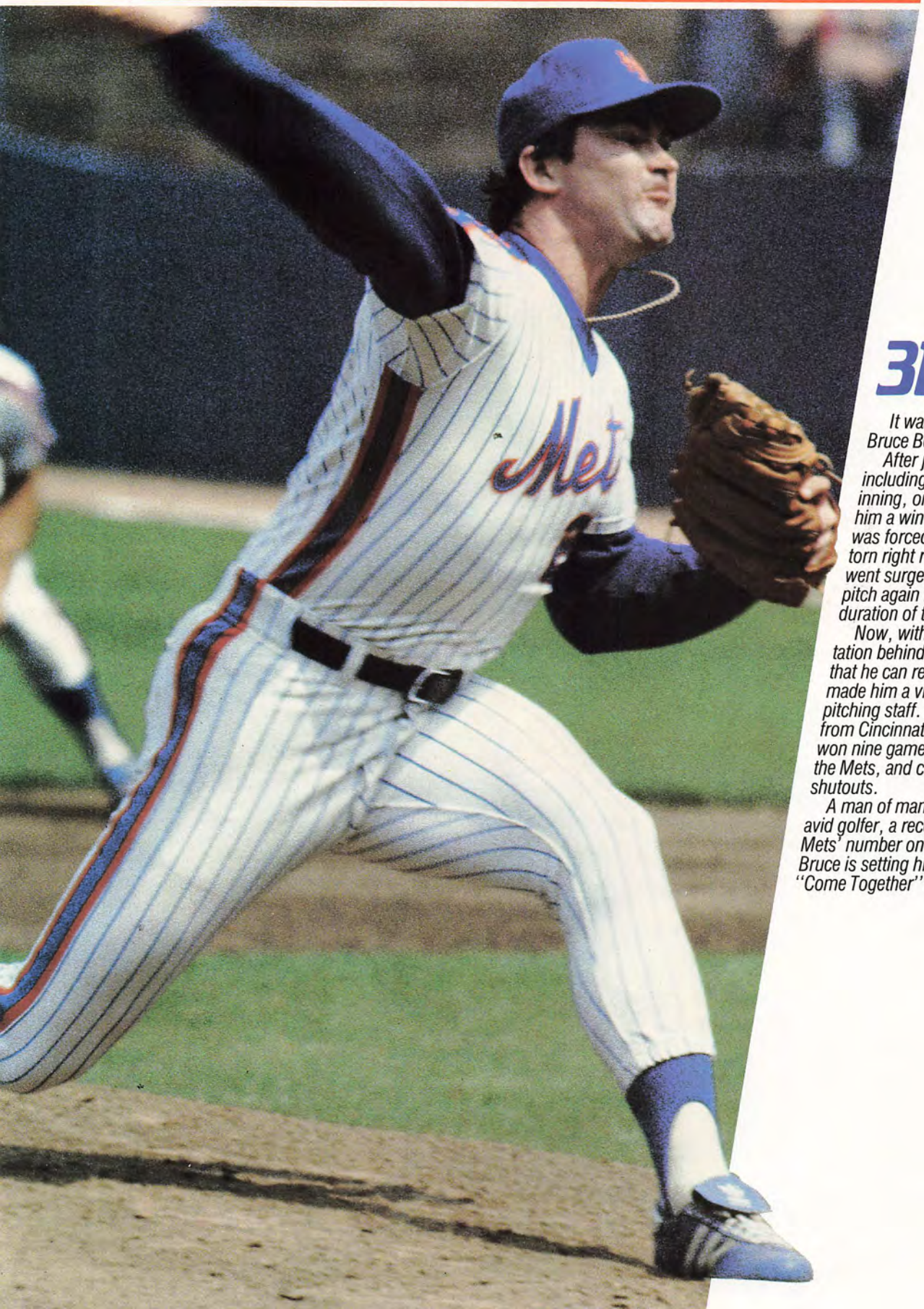
43

It is 37 feet high, topped by a screen 23 feet high, and sits on the edge of Landsdowne Street in Boston's Back Bay section. It is as close to Fenway Park's home plate as 315 feet. It is the Green Monster... favorite target for every American League right-handed hitter, and a nightmare for every lefty pitcher who has ever worn the uniform of the Boston Red Sox.

Only a few Red Sox southpaws have beaten the Monster, guys with pretty impressive names like Lefty Grove, Babe Ruth, Mel Parnell, Sparky Lyle, Bill Lee and John Tudor. And Bob Ojeda. Over five seasons with the Red Sox, Bob's .541 winning percentage at Fenway (20-17) ranked among the top ten of all lefties in Red Sox history. In 1983, he led the Red Sox with a .632 winning percentage, and the following year Bobby tied for the major league lead with five shutouts. And New Yorkers still remember his near no-hitter against the Yankees in 1981 at the Stadium.

Now Bobby brings his talents to the Mets. One thing's certain: when he walks out to the mound at Shea, that left field fence is going to look like it's about ten miles away.

BRUCE BERENYI



31

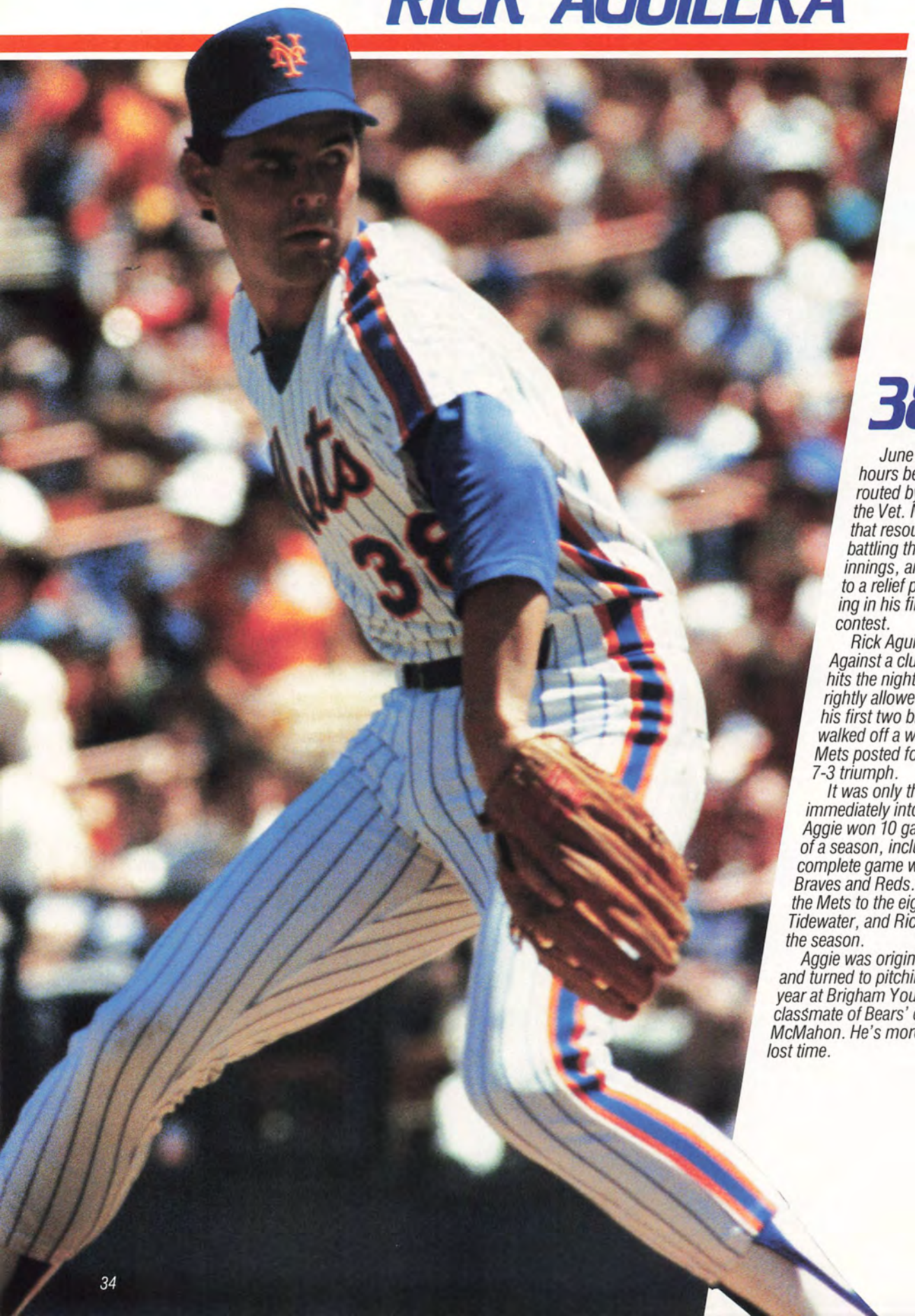
It was a short season for Bruce Berenyi.

After just three starts—including a brilliant seven-inning, one-hit effort that earned him a win over Cincinnati—Bruce was forced to the sidelines with a torn right rotator cuff. He underwent surgery in May, and didn't pitch again for the Mets for the duration of the season.

Now, with nearly a year's rehabilitation behind him, Bruce is hoping that he can return to the form that made him a vital member of the Mets' pitching staff. After being acquired from Cincinnati in mid-1984, Bruce won nine games in half a season for the Mets, and combined on four shutouts.

A man of many interests—he's an avid golfer, a record collector and the Mets' number one Beatles afficionado—Bruce is setting his sights on making it all "Come Together" in '86.

RICK AGUILERA



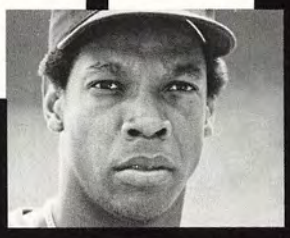
38

June 12, 1985. Only 24 hours before, the Mets had been routed by the Phillies, 26-7 at the Vet. Now, on the heels of that resounding loss, they were battling the Phils into extra innings, and entrusting a tie game to a relief pitcher who was appearing in his first major league contest.

Rick Aguilera didn't disappoint. Against a club that had rung out 27 hits the night before, the rookie rightly allowed nary a run or a hit in his first two big league innings, and walked off a winning pitcher when the Mets posted four runs in the 11th for a 7-3 triumph.

It was only the beginning. Thrust immediately into the starting rotation, Aggie won 10 games in only two-thirds of a season, including back-to-back complete game wins in July against the Braves and Reds. Add his record with the Mets to the eight weeks he spent at Tidewater, and Rick won 16 games on the season.

Aggie was originally a third baseman, and turned to pitching only during his junior year at Brigham Young, where he was a classmate of Bears' quarterback Jim McMahon. He's more than made up for lost time.



"Cy Young and Rookie of the Year were nice. But I want a World Series ring."

DWIGHT GOODEN

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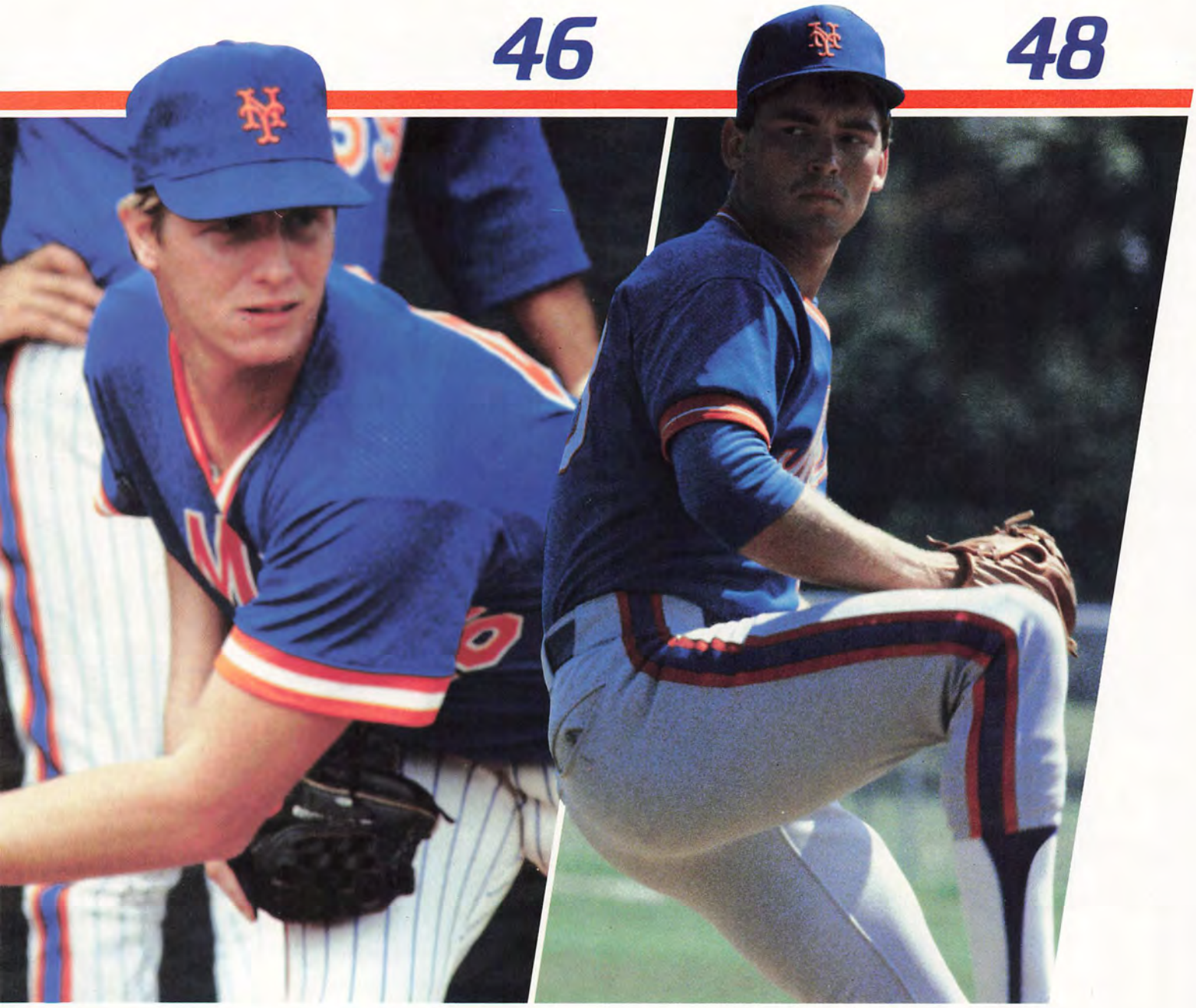

DAVE WEST

Southpaw Dave West earned a spot on the Mets' spring training roster this year after a remarkable season at Columbia of the South Atlantic League. He participated in the first two no-hitters in Columbia history (one was a combined effort against Charleston, the other was a complete game, 10-strikeout job against Spartanburg). He also had an 18-strikeout game against Macon, one of eight games in which he posted double figures in strikeouts.

Now in just his fourth professional season, Dave is starting to take dead aim at a major league spot.

RANDY MYERS

Randy Myers could very well be the next in the Mets' long line of outstanding young pitchers. The 23-year old lefthander began the 1985 season at Jackson of the Texas League, but quickly worked his way up to Tidewater, where he posted a 1.84 ERA in eight games. Then came the call to New York, and he responded with two scoreless innings in his major league debut against the Expos on the season's last day.

The Carolina League's Pitcher of the Year in 1984 (when he went 13-5 for Lynchburg), and a fellow who has 597 strikeouts in 603 career innings in the minors, Randy is a pitcher to watch in '86.

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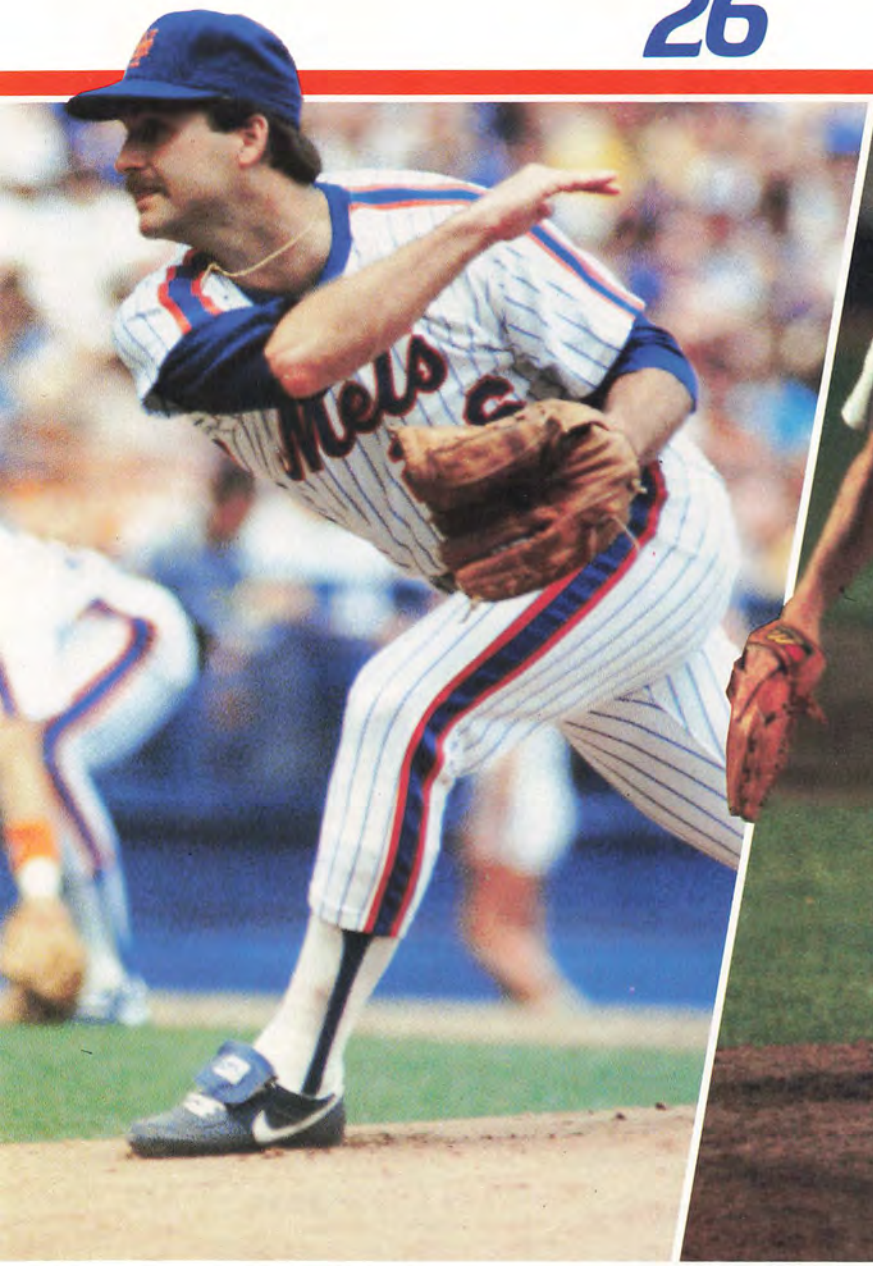

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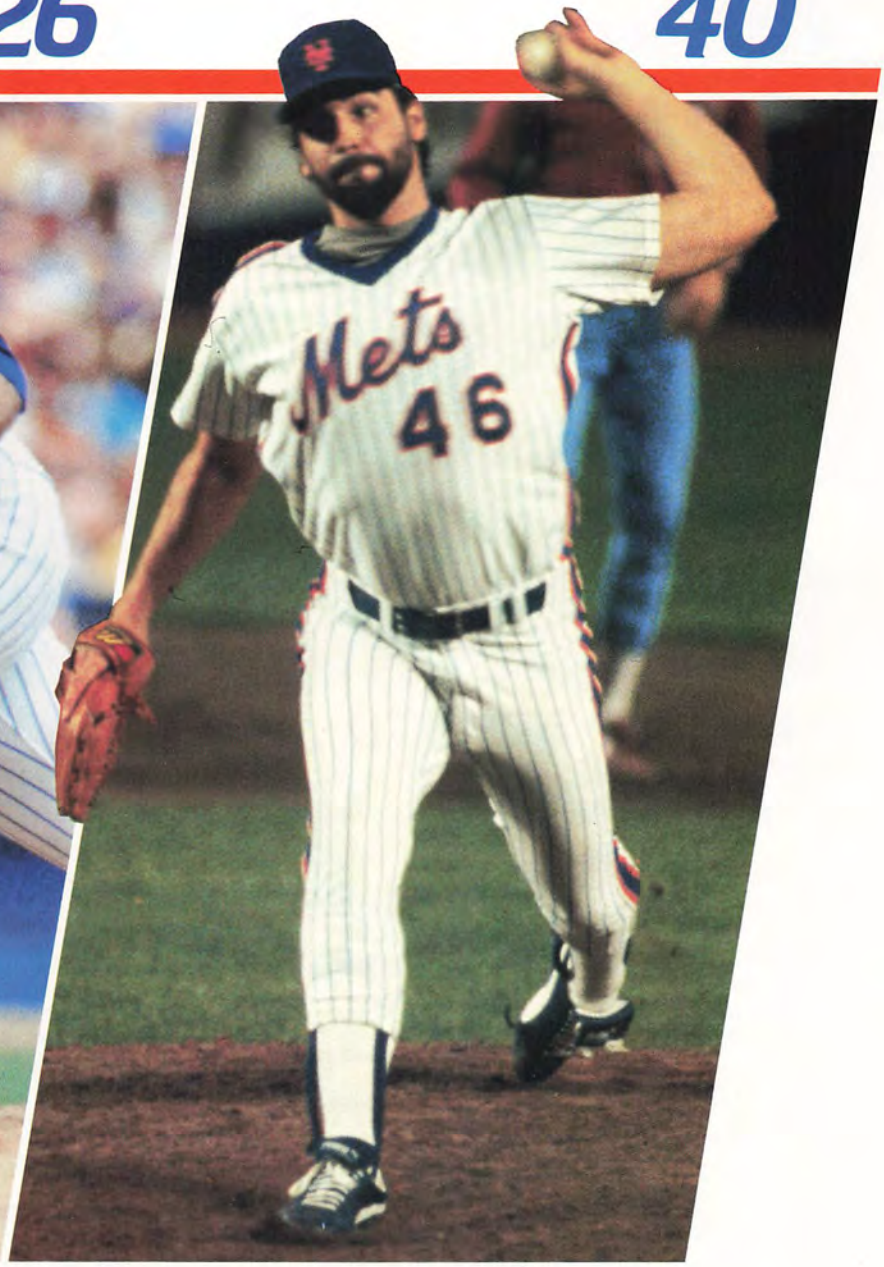

TERRY LEACH

After toiling in Triple-A for 2½ seasons, Terry Leach returned to the major leagues in June of '85, and the sidewheeling righthander wasted little time in establishing himself as a valued member of Davey Johnson's pitching staff. He posted a 2.91 ERA in 22 outings, and had a sparkling 3-1 record in four starts.

Twice last season, Terry was a last-minute replacement for a Met starter felled by illness (first Ed Lynch, then Sid Fernandez), and he came through with a win each time. Now in his 11th pro season, Terry hopes to make an even bigger contribution in '86.

RANDY NIEMANN

A veteran of 11 professional seasons, southpaw Randy Niemann has seen action with four major league teams. Acquired by the Mets' organization at the tail end of spring training last year, Randy went 11-6 with a 2.76 ERA for Tidewater as he worked both as a starter and reliever.

That earned him a call to New York, and he impressed everyone around Shea by going unscored upon in four outings with the Mets. It was an impression that could carry right on into '86.

In 1985 the Mets spelled relief

J-E-S-S-E O-R-O-S-C-O

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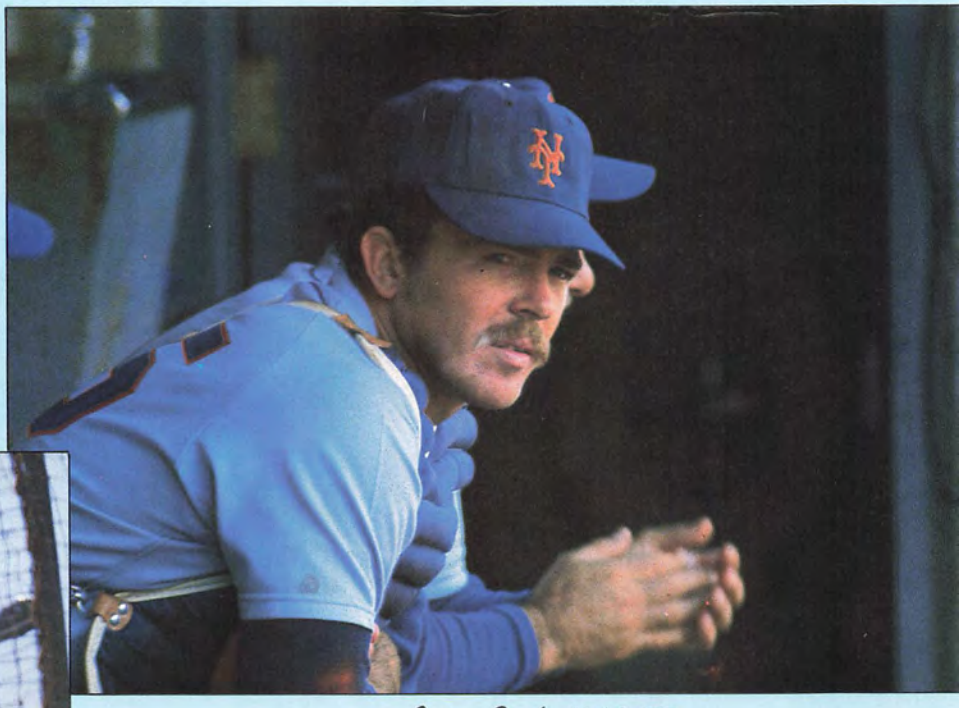
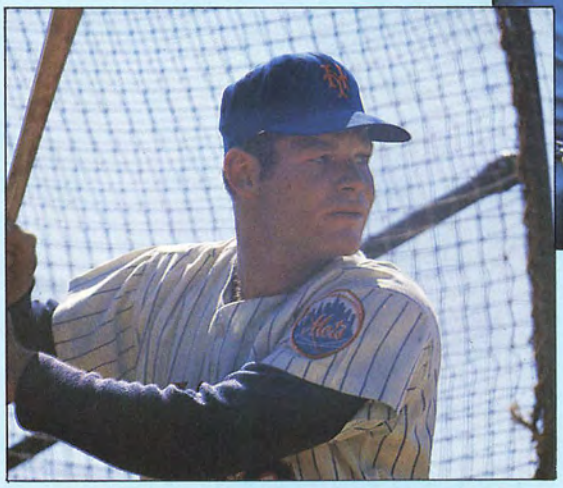
1976	Skip Lockwood	(10-7, 19 saves)
1977	Skip Lockwood	(4-8, 20 saves)
1978	Skip Lockwood	(7-13, 15 saves)
1979	Neil Allen	(6-10, 8 saves)
1980	Neil Allen	(7-10, 22 saves)
1981	Neil Allen	(7-6, 18 saves)
1982	Neil Allen	(3-7, 19 saves)
1983	Jesse Orosco	(13-7, 17 saves)
1984	Jesse Orosco	(10-6, 31 saves)
1985	Jesse Orosco	(8-6, 17 saves)

Chris Cannizzaro 1962-65

Duffy Dyer 1968-74



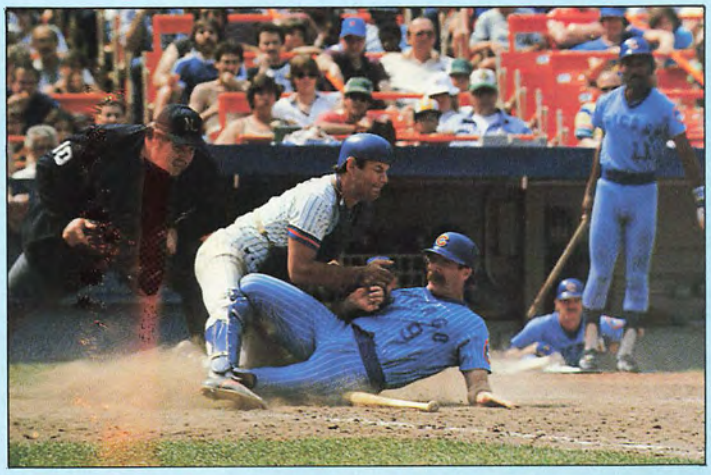
Jerry Grote 1966-77



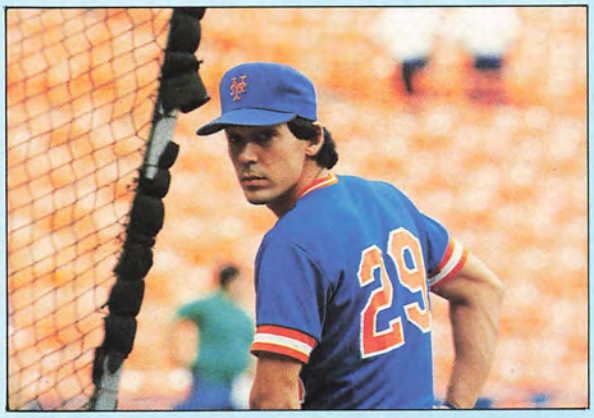
Greg Goossen 1965-68

CATCHERS

John Stearns 1975-84

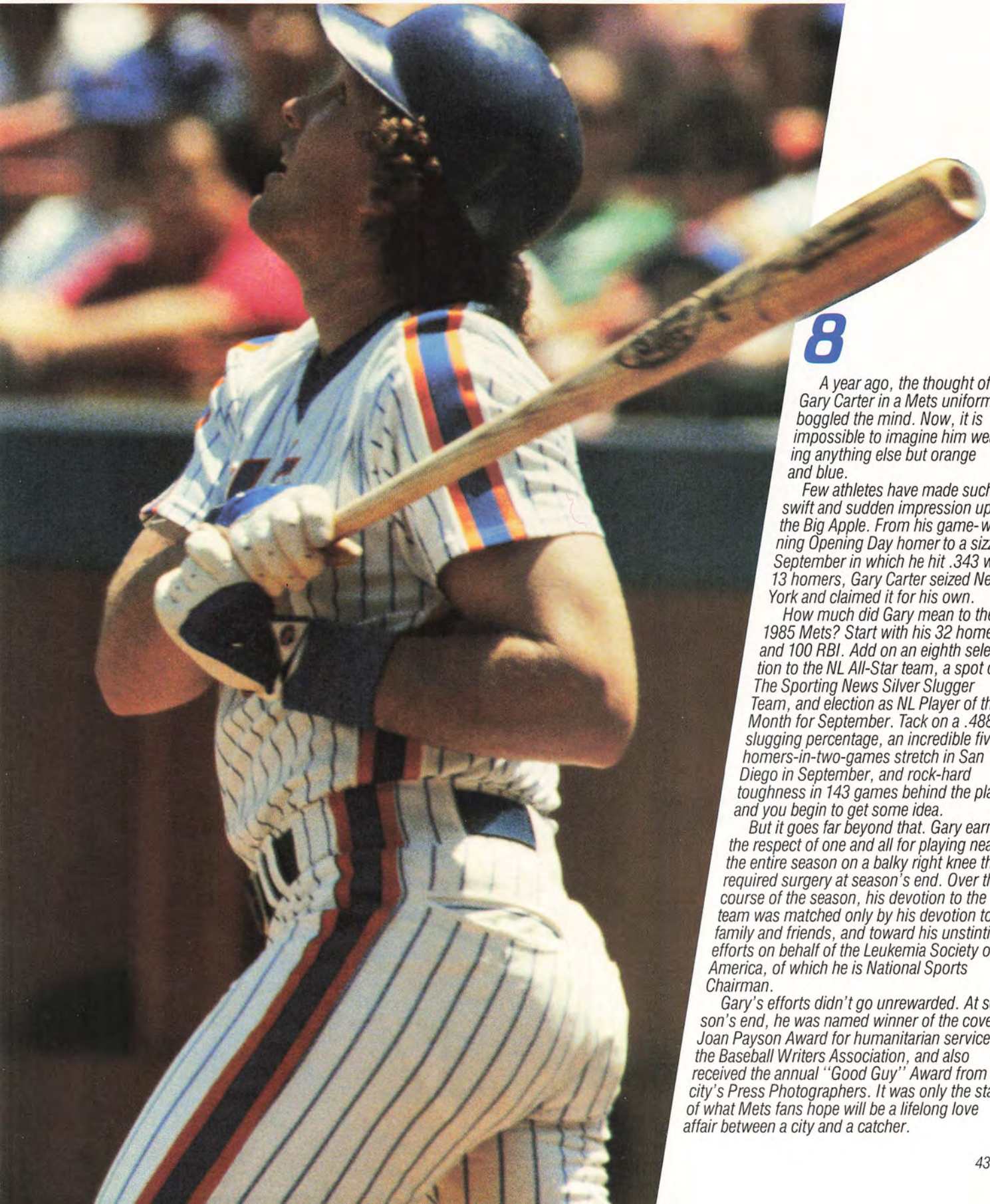


Ron Hodges 1973-84



Alex Trevino 1978-81

GARY CARTER



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A year ago, the thought of Gary Carter in a Mets uniform boggled the mind. Now, it is impossible to imagine him wearing anything else but orange and blue.

Few athletes have made such a swift and sudden impression upon the Big Apple. From his game-winning Opening Day homer to a sizzling September in which he hit .343 with 13 homers, Gary Carter seized New York and claimed it for his own.

How much did Gary mean to the 1985 Mets? Start with his 32 homers and 100 RBI. Add on an eighth selection to the NL All-Star team, a spot on The Sporting News Silver Slugger Team, and election as NL Player of the Month for September. Tack on a .488 slugging percentage, an incredible five-homers-in-two-games stretch in San Diego in September, and rock-hard toughness in 143 games behind the plate, and you begin to get some idea.

But it goes far beyond that. Gary earned the respect of one and all for playing nearly the entire season on a balky right knee that required surgery at season's end. Over the course of the season, his devotion to the team was matched only by his devotion to family and friends, and toward his unstinting efforts on behalf of the Leukemia Society of America, of which he is National Sports Chairman.

Gary's efforts didn't go unrewarded. At season's end, he was named winner of the coveted Joan Payson Award for humanitarian service by the Baseball Writers Association, and also received the annual "Good Guy" Award from the city's Press Photographers. It was only the start of what Mets fans hope will be a lifelong love affair between a city and a catcher.

33

7

BARRY LYONS

Barry Lyons' offensive statistics have been nothing short of spectacular over his last two years in the minors.

In 1984, he hit a glittering .316 at Lynchburg, with 12 homers and 87 RBI in 115 games and was the MVP of the Carolina League. And last year, he earned Doubleday Award-winning status as the MVP at Jackson. All he did was set a franchise record with 108 RBI, finish fourth in the Texas League with 149 hits, lead the loop with 16 game-winning RBI, and hit .307.

With numbers like that, and with the battle on for the Mets' backup catcher's spot, Barry's next stop could be New York.

JOHN GIBBONS

John Gibbons posted another solid season at Tidewater of the International League in 1985, hitting .259 with nine homers and 30 RBI to earn spots on the League's Mid-Season All-Star squad as well as the Post-Season All-Star team.

That earned him a September callup to Shea, marking the second straight year that John had spent time with the big club. He had earned a spot in the spring of '84, but a fractured left cheekbone and a strained right elbow cut deeply into his time at Shea. Now, as a candidate for the job of No. 1 backup to Gary Carter, John is hoping that his next stay in New York will be a long, long one.

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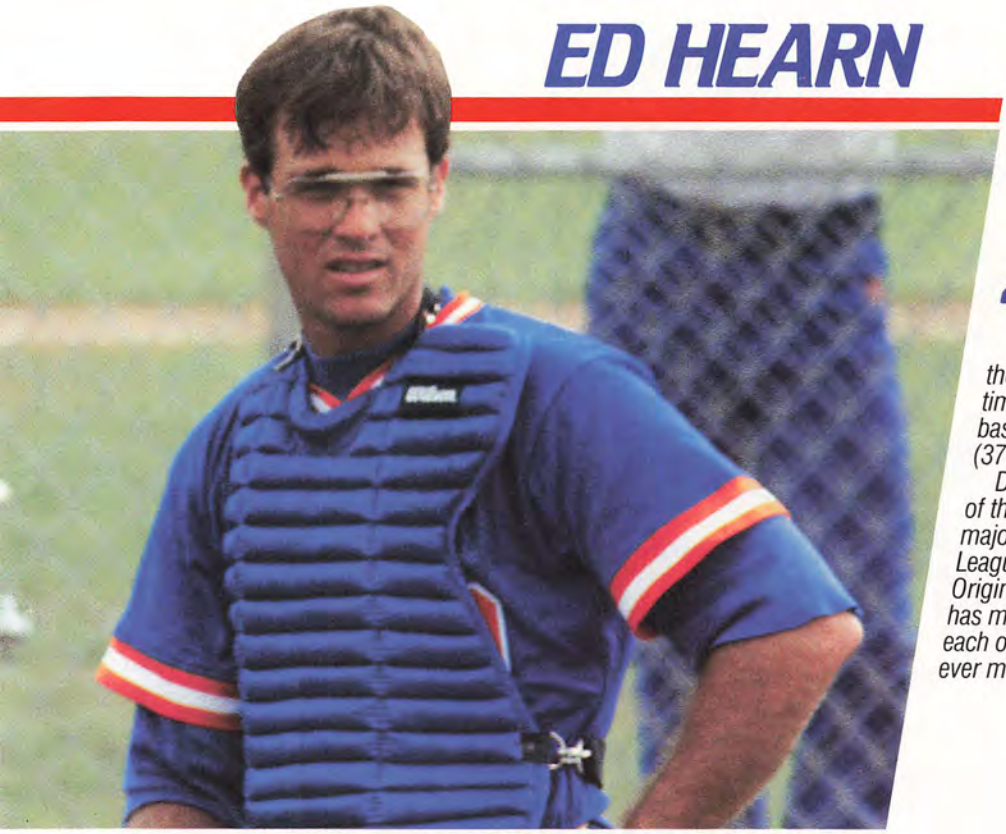

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Ed proved to be a most handy fellow to the Tidewater Tides last season, splitting times between catcher (47 games), first base (30 games) and designated hitter (37 games).

Despite being hampered in the second half of the year by an injured left knee, Ed played a major role in the Tides' drive to the International League title, hitting .364 in six playoff games. Originally signed by the Phillies' organization, Ed has moved up the minor league ladder during each of the last three years, and seeks his first-ever major league action in 1986.

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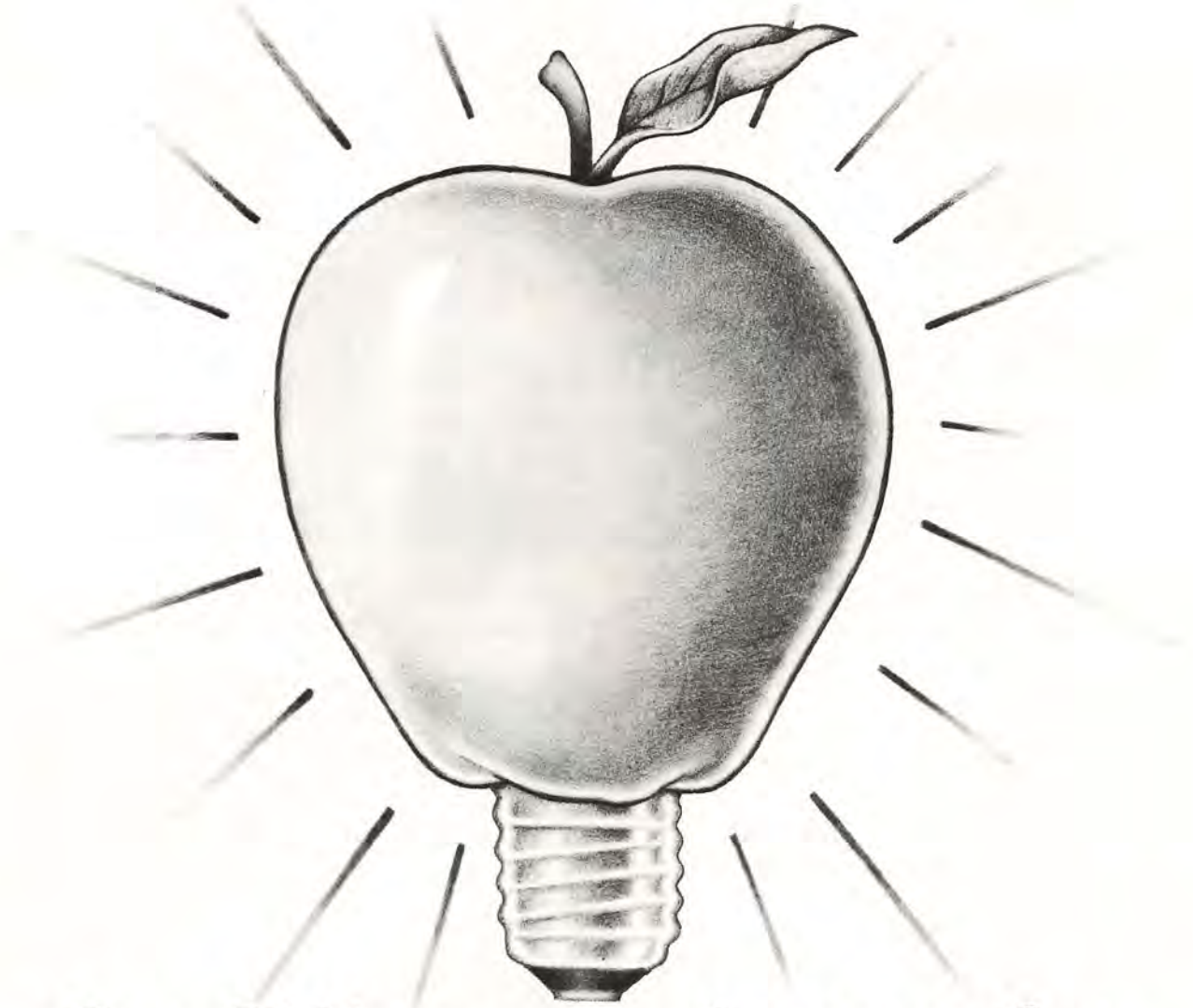

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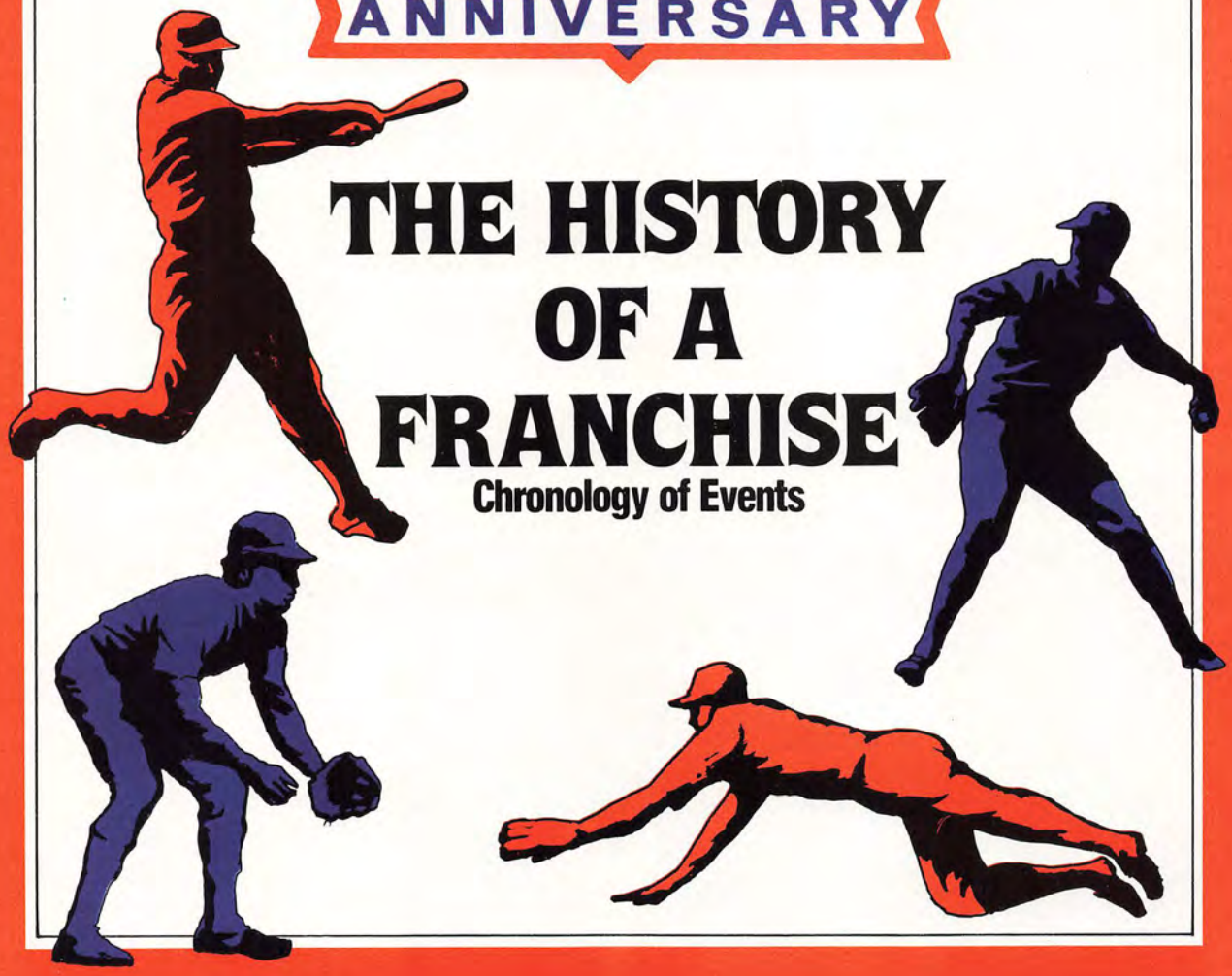


THE HISTORY OF A FRANCHISE

Chronology of Events

★★★★★★★A DREAM AND A TEAM★★★★★★

On August 19, 1957, the Board of Directors of the New York Giants voted 8-1 to approve a move of the team to San Francisco. The one dissenting vote was cast by M. Donald Grant, representing Mrs. Joan Payson. A couple of months later, Walter O'Malley announced that the Dodgers would also be leaving Brooklyn to go to the west coast—Los Angeles—and, for the first time in its history, the National League was without a New York franchise. In November of 1957, New York mayor Robert Wagner, faced with the stunning loss of two baseball teams in a matter of months, moved quickly to form a sports committee to lobby for another National League franchise for New York. As chairman of this committee, Wagner selected William A. Shea, a prominent attorney with a reputation for accomplishment. Upon given Wagner's instructions to get a team as quickly as possible, Shea replied confidently that they could either steal a club from another city such as what Los Angeles and San Francisco had done to them or else convince the National League to put an expansion franchise in New York.

Shea immediately set out to get an existing franchise and made overtures to both Powel Crosley, owner of the Cincinnati Reds, and John Galbreath, owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates. In addition, Shea held discussions with Bob Carpenter, owner of the Phillies, in hopes he could convince him on the merits of moving up the turnpike to a larger market. But all of these efforts met with failure and the National League compounded Shea's frustrations by turning its back on any suggestions regarding expansion.

Joan Payson . . . first lady of the Mets.

So it was then, that after much thought and considerable passion for his mission, Shea decided to circumvent the National League's stonewall by forming his own league. As his principal ally for this daring venture, Shea turned to 78-year old Branch Rickey, the former guiding hand in the St. Louis Cardinal and Brooklyn Dodger dynasties. Rickey, of course, was no stranger to making waves in baseball, having brought the game into the 20th century by breaking down the barrier against black players with the signing of Jackie Robinson in 1946 for the Dodgers. Between them, Shea and Rickey began rounding up wealthy investors from across the country including Mrs. Joan Payson in New York. On July 27, 1959, they announced the formation of the Continental League with franchises in Houston, Toronto, Denver, Minneapolis-St. Paul and, of course, New York. Not long after, Atlanta, Buffalo and Toronto were added to the new league. At the same time, Senate hearings in Washington were being conducted for the purpose of determining whether baseball deserved to maintain its exemption from anti-trust laws. Baseball's case for the exemption had been weakened by its iron-clad control over player contracts and the allotment of franchises.

So between the fledgling Continental League and Kefauver Senate hearings, baseball was suddenly under double-barreled pressure to alter its stance against changing the status quo. As Shea and Rickey said in a letter to the Kefauver Committee: "The present major league franchise owners apparently have a total lack of loyalty to the communities which support their enterprises." When the Senate vote was taken on baseball's anti-trust exemption, the major league owners were awarded with continued exemption—but only by a handful of votes. And, fearing that a second vote might be forthcoming in the near future, the owners voted to approve expansion. As a result of this vote, the Continental League effectively died—although not in total. Two of its franchises, Houston and New York, would be included in the National League's expansion from eight to 10 clubs. The dream of a third league lasted little more than a year, but for William Shea it became a mission accomplished when, on Oct. 17, 1960, New York was awarded an expansion franchise by the NL. A team was born and Shea's three-year joust with the baseball establishment had culminated in victory for New York. For that, they would name the stadium, in Queens, where the new team would take up permanent residence in 1964, after him.

Two of the major forces behind National League expansion into New York—M. Donald Grant (left) and William Shea.

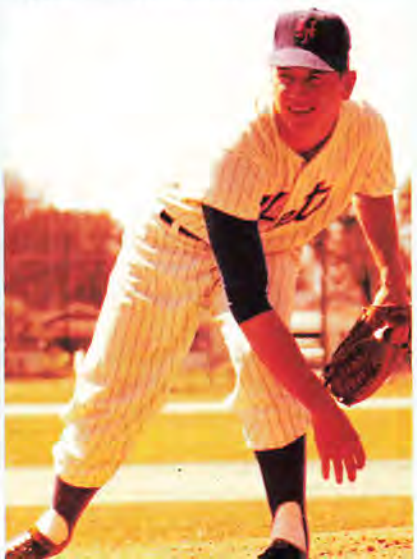
That First Year

1962

Old Casey knew right away. It was while watching Chris Cannizzaro, an allegedly defensive catcher (whose name Casey never could quite pronounce), that prompted the Mets' first manager to utter the words that became forever engraved on that first season. "I got this Canzoneri who's supposed to be a defensive catcher." Stengel said, "only he can't catch the ball. The pitcher throws. Wild pitch. Pitcher throws again. Passed ball. Throws again. Oops! Ball drops out of his glove. And all the time I'm gettin' dizzy watchin' all these runners running around the bases in circles on me. Makes you wonder. Can't anybody here play this game?"

The 1962 Mets did indeed make you wonder if anybody among them could play this game of baseball. In all, they lost a record 120 games. It took them nine losses before they would win their first game, on April 13, that season. Jay Hook, a cerebral righthander, beat the Pirates, 9-1, on a five hitter for that inaugural victory. Hook, a member of the American Rocket Society that year and a post-graduate student in gas dynamics at Northwestern, wrote a magazine piece on the theory of the curve ball. He finished the season with a 8-19 record, prompting Stengel to remark: "The kid's a genius. He knows everything there is to know about a curve ball except how to throw it." Hook, of course, had plenty of losing company. Roger Craig, the Mets' titular "ace" in 1962, finished 10-24. Alvin Jackson, a diminutive rookie lefthander showed considerable promise despite his 8-20 record. The Mets as a unit had losing streaks of 11, 13 and 17 during the course of that record-shattering 1962 season.

Jay Hook . . . recorded first Mets' win.



Marv Throneberry (left) and Rod Kanehl were two players that made the 1962 Mets Amazin'.

Let it not be said, however, that the 1962 Mets lacked character—or perhaps more precisely, characters. Besides Cannizzaro and Hook, there was Marvelous Marv Throneberry, Hot Rod Kanehl, Elio Chacon and so many others who came and went briefly as the season moved along.

Throneberry was able to parlay his Mets' legend into Lite Beer Commercial fame some 20 years later. It was on June 17, 1962 that the hulking, Tennessee-born first baseman spawned his legend by, first, botching up a rundown between first and second by allowing the baserunner to collide with him and claim interference and, later, by having a redeeming triple nullified by failing to touch first base. When Stengel came out to argue in Throneberry's behalf, Mets' first base coach Cookie Lavagetto was left no choice but to intercede. "Don't bother, Casey," Lavagetto said, "he missed second too." Right after that, Charlie Neal hit a homer for the Mets, prompting Stengel to again charge out of the dugout—this time to point to each base as Neal circled them. When Neal safely crossed the plate, Stengel nodded in approval as the Polo Grounds crowd roared in delight.

If not victories, then, it was something much more intangible that those first Mets brought to New York. For despite the team's ineptitude, New Yorkers took the Mets to heart as evidenced by the 922,530 fans who came out to watch all the losing that season. It wasn't long before Stengel, seeing the hold his beloved losers were developing on New York, began referring to them as "My amazins." Of course, most of their amazin' feats were of the negative variety: Throneberry led all NL first basemen in errors with 17. Kanehl, epitomizing the "jack of all trades, master of none" epithet, committed 32 errors as an outfielder, shortstop, second baseman and third baseman. Chacon, despite one remarkable streak of handling 95 successive chances without a miscue, committed 22 errors at shortstop and hit just .236 with 27 RBI. As a unit, the Mets committed 210 errors, had a team ERA of 5.04 and a team batting average of .240. Mets pitchers allowed a record 192 home runs hit off them and committed an NL record 71 wild pitches. At the end of the season, Richie Ashburn, the Mets' leading hitter (.306) announced he was retiring.

It was left to Toots Shor, the fabled New York saloonkeeper, to best sum up what the Amazin' Mets of 1962 meant to New York and to baseball lore: "I have a son," Toots told writer Jimmy Breslin, "and I make him watch the Mets games because I want him to know life. It's a history lesson. He'll understand the depression better when they teach it to him in school."

★ 1962 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 40-120, 10th
LEADING HITTER:
Richie Ashburn, .306
LEADING PITCHER:
Roger Craig, 10-24
HOME RUN LEADER:
Frank Thomas, 34
RBI LEADER:
Frank Thomas, 94
ERA LEADER:
Al Jackson, 4.40
SAVE LEADER:
Craig Anderson, 4

1963

Farewell to Coogan's Bluff

The record-breaking futility of their maiden season prompted the Mets' brass to begin an immediate change of philosophy in '63. Having achieved at least a gate success in '62 by bringing back many of the old Brooklyn Dodger favorites, the Mets began a phase-out of these fading veterans in an effort to begin building toward a more successful future. In December of '62, the Mets traded Bob Miller, a highly regarded righthander despite his 2-2 record in '62, to the Dodgers in exchange for first baseman Tim Harkness and second baseman Larry Burright. When the '63 season opened, Gil Hodges was still considered an integral member of the Mets, but on May 22 he became manager of the Washington Senators. In return the Mets got zany center fielder Jimmy Piersall. Piersall's tenure as a Met lasted just 40 games when he was released with a .194 average, but it was marked by a bit of entertaining history. On the occasion of hitting his 100th home run, June 23, '63, he ran the bases backward.

Otherwise, the Mets' second season was almost as bad as their first from an on-the-field standpoint, although not nearly as amusing. Roger Craig continued to be the club's most consistent loser, following up his 10-24 record of '62 by again leading the National League in defeats with a 5-22 mark. Harkness did not prove to be any improvement over Throneberry at first base either. He batted just .211 and did not achieve any of the notoriety his luckless predecessor had managed. At one point, beginning June 28, the Mets lost 15 games in a row. Craig, himself, was given just 23 runs in his first 17 starts and was 2-13 at the All Star break. He would tie a National League record later in the summer by losing 18 in a row.

Al Jackson: "If this was 10 years earlier. . ."

On a team dominated by veterans, such as Jimmy Piersall (left), Ron Hunt finished second to Pete Rose in Rookie-of-the-Year voting in 1963.

As a unit, the 1963 Mets batted .219, had a staff ERA of 4.12 and lost 111 games. If Harkness was a major disappointment at first base, then so, too, was Al Moran, the shortstop acquired from the Boston Red Sox along with pitcher Tracy Stallard for second baseman Felix Mantilla the previous December. Moran hit but .193. And, having quickly given up on the catching duo of Hobie Landrith and Chris Cannizzaro in '62, Stengel turned to a journeyman minor leaguer named Clarence "Choo Choo" Coleman who hit .178. Coleman, if anything, may best remembered that season for an interview he did on Kiner's Korner. When asked by Ralph Kiner: "What is your wife's name and what does she like?" Coleman responded: "Her name in Mrs. Coleman and she likes me, Bub."

Still, Stengel's rag-tag outfit drew 1,080,108 fans to the Polo Grounds that season and there were some reasons to keep the faith. In particular, there was Ron Hunt, a scrappy, hell-bent-for-leather second baseman acquired from the Braves' organization who wound up leading the club in hitting (.272) while finishing second to Pete Rose in the NL Rookie of the Year balloting. On the pitching staff, diminutive Al Jackson posted a 13-17 mark and completed 11 games.

Al Jackson Remembers:

If anyone epitomized the frustration of being a Met from 1962-65, it was Al Jackson, the diminutive lefthander who, despite losing 73 games over those four seasons, was regarded as one of the best pitchers in the National League. After the 1965 season, the Mets mercifully traded Jackson to the St. Louis Cardinals and in '66 he was 13-15 with a 2.51 ERA. Today, he's back with the Mets as a roving pitching instructor.

"I remember the first time I took the field for the Mets in 1962, looking around seeing Gil Hodges, Charlie Neal, Don Zimmer, Richie Ashburn and Gus Bell. I thought to myself: 'If this was 10 years earlier, this would be a helluva ballclub.' I really had only one thing in mind and that was to establish myself in the big leagues, although, after awhile, I began to wonder if this WAS the big leagues. My first year, I won eight games and four of them were shutouts. My second year, I won 13 but I honestly believe I could have won 30. I pitched the best baseball of my life but it was the worst year that ever existed. Still, when I got traded to the Cardinals and was leaving a last-place team for a pennant contender, I felt bad. I really hated to leave New York. I felt I had become a real part of the city and the team."

★ 1963 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 51-111, 10th
LEADING HITTER:
Ron Hunt, .272
LEADING PITCHER:
Al Jackson, 13-17
HOME RUN LEADER:
Jim Hickman, 17
RBI LEADER:
Frank Thomas, 60
ERA LEADER:
Carlton Willey, 3.10
SAVE LEADER:
Larry Bearnarth, 4

Welcome Home

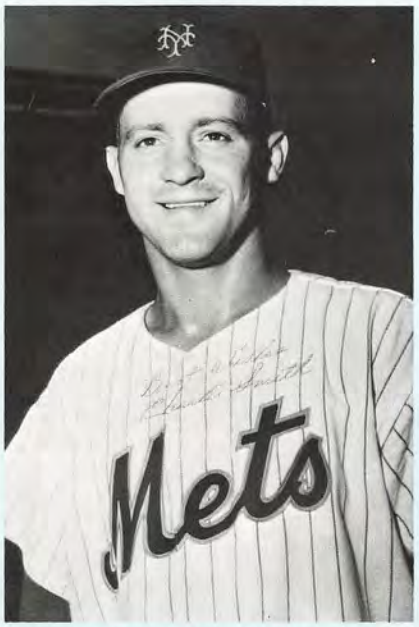
1964

The 1963 season marked the end of a long and glorious baseball history at the Polo Grounds. Soon after, the old horseshoe-shaped ballyard was razed for a housing project and, in 1964, the Mets moved into their new quarters, Shea Stadium, right next to the World's Fair in Queens. The move to this spanking new 55,000-seat ballpark proved an added boon to the Mets' already encouraging attendance figures. A total of 1,732,597 or a rise of 60% from '63 at the old Polo Grounds, came out to see the Mets finish last again in '64. But if they finished last and lost 100 games for the third straight year, they did it with an increasing number of new, younger faces. Over the winter, luckless Roger Craig was given a deserving reprieve from his two years penance with the Mets and was traded to the Cardinals for outfielder George Altman and pitcher Bill Wakefield. And Dodger favorite Duke Snider, picked up for the '63 season, was released to the Giants at the start of '64, following a subpar .243 season in Mets pinstripes.

The early Mets' most-popular player, Hot Rod Kanehl (shown with family) played every infield position and the outfield in his three seasons in New York. Was first Met Grand Slam hitter.

With Craig having been traded, Mets manager Casey Stengel had looked to veteran Carlton Willey, the surprise club leader in ERA the year before, to be his staff leader. But Willey was struck by a line drive in spring training and suffered a broken jaw that sidelined him until June. He subsequently suffered an arm injury that ended his career. Again, the pitching load fell to the little lefty, Al Jackson, who responded with 11 wins. Tracy Stallard, who had come over from Boston a year earlier, filled Craig's niche as the Mets' traditional 20-game loser, but did so with a respectable 3.79 ERA.

The Mets' everyday lineup began taking on a more youthful look in '64 with



Charlie Smith . . . belted 20 homers in 1964.

Ron Hunt being joined by newcomers Joe Christopher in rightfield, Ed Kranepool at first base and Jesse Gonder behind the plate. Christopher was an especially pleasant surprise, batting .300 with a club-leading 79 RBI. A trade with the White Sox in April brought another big improvement—third baseman Charlie Smith. Taking over one of the Mets' weakest positions, Smith provided 20 homers from the "hot corner."

So if the improvement wasn't dramatic in the won-lost column, it was definitely evident in the overall product. The

Outfielder Joe Christopher had his best big-league season in 1964 with 16 home runs, 76 RBI and a .300 batting average.

Mets increased their team batting average from .219 to .246 in '64, their homers from 96 to 103, while cutting their errors from 210 to 167. Conceivably, had Willey been able to duplicate his 9-14, 3.10 season of '63 and not been a total washout, the Mets might have climbed out of the cellar for Stengel in '64.

★ 1964 METS AT A GLANCE ★

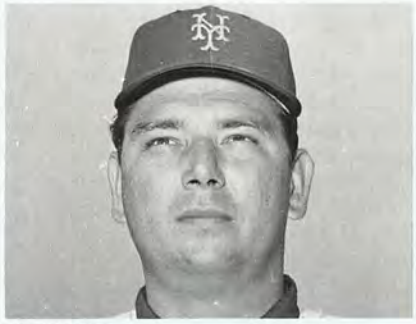
RECORD: 53-109, 10th
LEADING HITTER:
Ron Hunt, .303
LEADING PITCHER:
Al Jackson, 11-16
HOME RUN LEADER:
Charlie Smith, 20
RBI LEADER:
Joe Christopher, 76
ERA LEADER:
Galen Cisco, 3.61
SAVE LEADER:
Willard Hunter, 5

1965

Farewell to Casey

If there was any word to describe the Mets' 1965 season, it would be misfortune. For wherever they seemed to go that season, misfortune followed. On the field, the season was a disaster. Any hopes of continued improvement were dashed when Ron Hunt, the Mets' mainstay second baseman, was sidelined until April 30 with a finger injury, then knocked out again with a shoulder separation in May that required surgery. With Hunt, their one true star in '64, out for most of the season, the '65 Mets struggled along with a woeful hitting attack that averaged .221. They finished the season last again, 50-112.

Off the field, their was misfortune too as Casey Stengel, returning home from the teams' Oldtimer's Day party in the wee small hours of July 25, suffered a fall getting out of a car and sustained a fracture of his left hip. It proved to be one obstacle the 74-year old manager simply could not overcome. He turned the reins over to coach Wes Westrum on an interim basis and then announced his retirement after the season was over.



Jack Fisher

In an effort to demonstrate to the fans they were trying to instill a winning atmosphere at Shea, the Mets front office brought in a couple of familiar "winners" who had achieved Hall of Fame numbers elsewhere. But Warren Spahn, at 43, and Yogi Berra, at 39, were well past their primes and contributed more by their presence than with their faded skills. Spahn was an un-Spahn-like 4-12 with a 4.36 ERA, while Berra, signed as a player coach, caught four games and hung up the "tools of ignorance" for good.

Chris Cannizzaro

One bright spot in the otherwise lost season of '65 was the emergence of young Ron Swoboda, an outfielder whom Stengel had taken a liking to in spring training. Swoboda, despite just 1½ seasons of minor league experience —none in triple A, made the team in spring training and wound up leading the club in homers with 19. However, a more telling sign that the 20-year-old Swoboda had been rushed to the big leagues before his time, was the fact that he failed to hit a single homer after Aug. 26. The Mets' pitching was equally overmatched with not a single hurler reaching double figures in wins—the first time that had happened in the NL since 1945.

One of the original Mets, Jim Hickman was the first Mets player to hit three home runs in one game.

★ 1965 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 50-112, 10th
LEADING HITTER:
Ed Kranepool, .253
LEADING PITCHER:
Jack Fisher, 8-24
Al Jackson, 8-20
HOME RUN LEADER:
Ron Swoboda, 19
RBI LEADER:
Charlie Smith, 62
ERA LEADER:
Jack Fisher, 3.93
SAVE LEADER:
Dennis Ribant, 3

Daylight

1966

The year 1966 will go down in the Mets history as the first season of hope; the season when the Mets, at last, discarded their expasion team garb and began acting like a legitimate member of the National League establishment. For, in 1966, the Mets finally left last place, enjoying the finest season in their five-year history while setting a club record with 66 victories. By finishing ninth, the Mets also finished a notch higher than their cross-town rivals, the Yankees, who had sunk to their lowest depths, 10th, in 1966.

Despite a New York City summer in which the Bronx was down and Queens was, too, the Mets' attendance reached another new high—1,932,693.

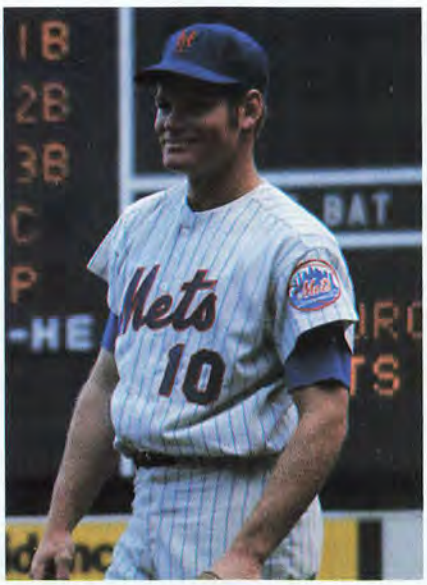
It was just after the All Star Game that the Mets experienced their first real taste of consistent success when they set a club record by winning seven in a row, including a four-game sweep of their fellow '62 expansionists, the Houston Astros. Had it not been for some critical disabling injuries—Jim Hickman missed three months with a broken wrist, Roy McMillan missed almost as much time with a tendon injury in his shoulder—the Mets might have fared even better in this renaissance season.

After being purchased from the Giants on June 10, Bob Shaw compiled an 11-10 record for the rest of the season.

Righty Dennis Ribant put together his best season in 1966, going 11-9 with a 3.21 earned run average.

There were, however, other new Met heroes who played significant roles in the team's long-awaited run at respectability. Specifically, there were the pitchers, Dennis Ribant and Bob Shaw, plus third baseman Ken Boyer and rookie outfielder Cleon Jones. In the off-season, following a fourth straight last-place finish, Mets management, general manager Geo. Weiss and director Bing Devine, swung into action on the trade market, acquiring perennial All Star third baseman Boyer from the Cardinals for pitcher Al Jackson and third baseman Charlie Smith. The previous August, in a much less publicized deal, the Mets had obtained righthander Ribant from the Pirates for veteran righty Frank Lary. And, on June 10 of '66, they obtained another veteran righthander, Shaw, from the Giants in a straight purchase. The end result of these three deals, made within a year's span, was that Boyer hit .266 and led the Mets in runs batted in (61), Ribant became the Mets' first right hand pitcher to win 11 games and Shaw won 11 games from June 10 to the end of the season to finish up at 12-14. In addition, Jones hit .275 and set a club record with 16 stolen bases.

Only 18 years old when he joined the Mets in 1962, Ed Kranepool led the club in home runs in 1966 with 16.



Of Greg Goossen, Casey Stengel once said, "He's only 20 years old and in 10 years he has a chance to be 30."

★ 1966 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 66-95, 9th
LEADING HITTER:
Ron Hunt, .288
LEADING PITCHER:
Bob Shaw, 11-10
Dennis Ribant, 11-9
Jack Fisher, 11-14
HOME RUN LEADER:
Ed Kranepool, 16
RBI LEADER:
Ken Boyer, 61
ERA LEADER:
Dennis Ribant, 3.21
SAVE LEADER:
Jack Hamilton, 13

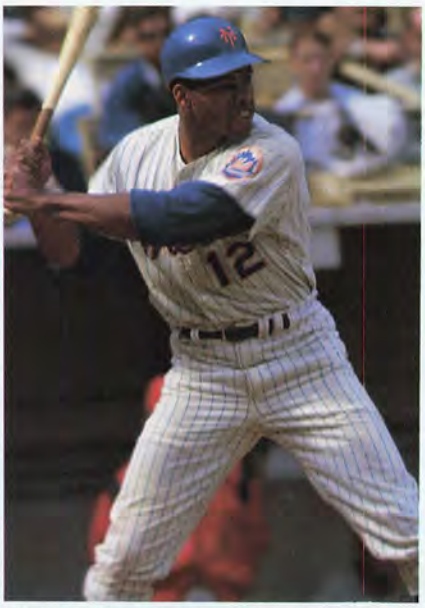
1967

Tom Terrific Arrives

The 1967 season witnessed a return to last place by the Mets, which, on the surface, might have been looked upon as a setback of sorts from the hope-filled ninth-place finish of the year before. The team dropped from 66 wins back down to just 61 and, with 11 games remaining, manager Wes Westrum resigned and was replaced, on an interim basis, by coach Salty Parker. But conspicuously wrapped within those 61 wins were the 16 contributed by Tom Seaver, a 22-year old righthander who burst onto the Shea scene to win Rookie of the Year honors. Seaver, a graduate of Southern California, represented a most fortunate turn of fate for the Mets in that he was awarded to them in a lottery after his signing with the Braves had been declared in violation of college rules by Commissioner William Eckert. Seaver spent one season in the minor leagues, compiling a 12-12 record at Jacksonville in 1966, before joining the Mets in '67 and immediately establishing himself as their ace.

While Seaver was winning top rookie honors and earning a bid to the All Star Game en route to a 16-13 record, 2.76 ERA, 18 complete games and 170 strikeouts—all Met records, another youngster, shortstop Bud Harrelson replaced the veteran Roy McMillan at that pivotal position. The flyweight (5-11, 150) Harrelson batted .254 in 151 games in '67, stealing 12 bases and anchoring the infield. There was also another major off-season trade that paid dividends for the Mets in '67 as veteran outfielder Tommy Davis was acquired from the Dodgers for the popular second baseman Ron Hunt and outfielder Jim Hickman. Davis hit a solid .302 for the '67 Mets with 16 homers and 73 RBI, but his biggest contribution toward their future success came from what they were able to get for him in a subsequent trade after the season.

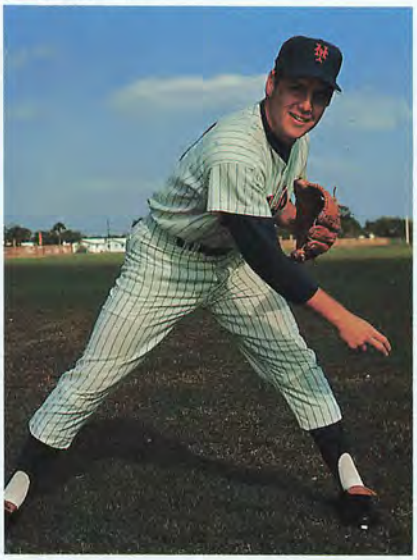
For, it was on Dec. 15, 1967, that the Mets dealt Davis to the White Sox in exchange for center fielder Tommie Agee and second baseman Al Weis. Agee would take over as the club's regular center fielder in '68. Meanwhile, another fairly-concealed bright spot of the deceptively dismal '67 season was the play of 24-year old Ron Swoboda in rightfield. Swoboda, who had struggled with the bat in his first two seasons after being rushed to the majors in '65 when Casey Stengel took an immediate liking to him, raised his average 59 points to .281 in '67 while slugging 13 homers and driving in 53 runs. With Seaver, Harrelson, Swoboda, Cleon Jones and, soon, Agee and Weis, the Mets were suddenly developing a young nucleus of talent that would lift them at last from the depths of the National League.



Tommy Davis, who played for a record 11 teams, was the first Met to lead the club in home runs, RBI and batting average.

Don Cardwell's tenure with the Mets spanned their last tenth-place finish to their first World Championship.

After a 12-12 record in only one season of minor-league ball, Tom Seaver established himself as one of the league's premier pitchers in 1967.



★ 1967 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 61-101, 10th
LEADING HITTER:
Tommy Davis, .302
LEADING PITCHER:
Tom Seaver, 16-13
HOME RUN LEADER:
Tommy Davis, 16
RBI LEADER:
Tommy Davis, 73
ERA LEADER:
Tom Seaver, 2.76
SAVE LEADER:
Ron Taylor, 8

Roots of the Miracle

1968

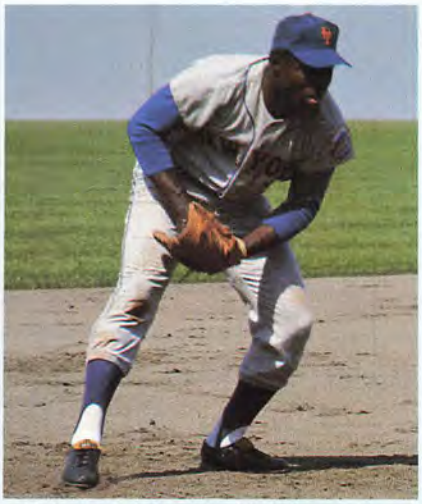
In chronicling any history of the Mets, it can be said with reasonable authority that the events which shaped the 1968 season in fact were ones that shaped the team's ultimate greatest triumph. They were not, however, events that occurred *DURING* the '68 season (which ended in another ninth-place finish and a club-high 73 wins). Having lost Wes Westrum as manager in Sept. of '67, the Mets front office brain trust of Board Chairman M. Donald Grant, general manager Bing Devine and, of course, the owner, Mrs. Joan Payson, set out in search of a new skipper who, in their opinion, combined the perfect blend of youth, leadership ability, popularity and "big name" visibility in New York. They did not have to search long for their man. They knew almost immediately they wanted Gil Hodges, who had moved on to Washington during the 1963 season and earned his manager apprenticeship with the Senators from '63-'67. Because Hodges had been successful with the Senators, there was a price to be paid for his services, a reported $100,000 plus minor league pitcher Bill Denehy.

The Mets paid a reported $100,000 and gave up a pitcher to acquire the Washington Senators' manager, Gil Hodges prior to the 1968 season.

The acquisition of Hodges between the '67 and '68 season was the most publicized and most significant off-season development. However, Devine and Grant were making other moves that would eventually pay off huge dividends in a very short time. From the White Sox, center fielder Tommie Agee and second baseman Al Weis were acquired for Tommie Davis. From the Reds, outfielder Art Shamsky was obtained for infielder Bob Johnson. From the White Sox, catcher J.C. Martin was obtained as the completion of the Ken Boyer deal. And then there was the minor league system, which Johnny Murphy had honed as the club's farm chief in its formative years. From the minors came pitcher Nolan Ryan, Jerry Koosman, Jim McAndrew and second baseman Ken Boswell. Finally, there was the emergence of catcher Jerry Grote, who raised his average from .195 to .282 and established himself as one of the best all-around receivers in the NL.

The 1968 season was a season of both hope and despair for the Mets. The hope came from the record 73 wins, fashioned largely through the development of the young pitchers, Seaver (16-12), Koosman (19-12), the young catcher Grote and the young outfield of Jones (.297), Agee and Swoboda. The despair was brought about by the heart attack suffered by Hodges on Sept. 24. Hodges remained in intensive care in an Atlanta hospital for the final two weeks of the season, but was given assurances by the doctors that he could resume managing the club in '69. Prior to the season, Hodges had set a goal of 70 wins. Seaver, Koosman and Grote were all selected to the All Star team and there was very definitely a new feeling of hope that big times at Shea were just around the corner.

Only 20 years old when he won a starting role as a rookie in 1965, Ron Swoboda became one of the club's most popular players in his six-year stint.



Ed Charles led the club with 15 home runs, batted .276 and drove in 53 runs in 1968.

★ 1968 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 73-89, 9th
LEADING HITTER:
Cleon Jones, .297
LEADING PITCHER:
Jerry Koosman, 19-12
HOME RUN LEADER:
Ed Charles, 15
RBI LEADER:
Ron Swoboda, 59
ERA LEADER:
Jerry Koosman, 2.08
SAVE LEADER:
Ron Taylor, 13

THE EVOLUTION OF A FRANCHISE

(A Chronology of Significant Dates in the Mets 25-year History)

1960

Oct. 17— National League awards expansion franchise for 1962 to New York group headed by Mrs. Joan Whitney Payson

1961

Mar. 14— New York expansion team in NL names George Weiss as its President

May 8— New York expansion team selects "Mets" (short for Metropolitans) as its nickname over "Empires" and "Islanders"

Sep. 29— Casey Stengel is named Mets' first manager

Oct. 10— Mets spend $1.8 million to select 22 players in NL's first expansion draft

Nov. 28— Mets acquire outfielder Frank Thomas from Milwaukee Braves for player to be named later (Gus Bell on 5/21/62)

Dec. 8— Mets purchase outfielder Richie Ashburn from Cubs

1962

Apr. 11— In their first game, Mets lose 11-4 to Cardinals in St. Louis

Apr. 13— In their first home game, Mets lose 4-3 to Pirates at Polo Grounds

Apr. 23— Mets defeat Pirates 9-1 behind pitching of Jay Hook for their first victory after nine straight losses

Apr. 29— Al Jackson pitches first Mets' shutout, an 8-0, eight-hit decision over Phillies

May 9— Mets acquire first baseman Marv Throneberry from Orioles for player to be named later (Hobie Landrith on 6/7/62)

May 30— Before largest Polo Grounds crowd of season—54,360—Mets execute their first triple play, vs. Dodgers

June 27— Mets sign bonus baby first baseman Ed Kranepool out of Bronx' James Monroe high school for $85,000

June 30— Sandy Koufax victimizes Mets for the first of his four career no-hitters, 5-0 at Los Angeles

July 6— Rod Kanehl is treated to 50,000 King Korn trading stamps for hitting first grand slam homer in Mets' history in 10-3 win over Cardinals

1963

Mar. 23— Mets purchase pitcher Carlton Willey from Milwaukee Braves

Apr. 1— Mets purchase outfielder Duke Snider from Dodgers

May 22— Gil Hodges retires as Mets player to accept offer as Washington Senators manager

June 23— On the occasion of hitting his 100th career home run (vs. Phillies), Mets' Jimmy Piersall runs the bases backward at Polo Grounds

Aug. 7— Jim Hickman becomes the first Met to hit for the cycle in 7-3 win over Cardinals

Aug. 9— Roger Craig's club record 18-game losing streak ends in 7-3 Mets' win over Cubs

Sep. 18— In the final game ever played at Polo Grounds, Mets lose 5-1 to Phillies before just 1,752

Nov. 4— Mets trade pitcher Roger Craig to Cardinals for outfielder George Altman and pitcher Bill Wakefield

1964

Apr. 14— Mets sell outfielder Duke Snider to Giants

Apr. 17— Mets inaugurate their new home, Shea Stadium, with 4-3 loss to Pirates before 48,736

May 26— Dick Smith becomes first Met to have 5 hits in 1 game in 19-1 rout of Cubs

May 31— Mets and Giants play marathon doubleheader at Shea, the nightcap going 23 innings (7 hours, 23 mins.) before SF completes 5-3, 8-6 sweep

June 21— Jim Bunning zips Mets 6-0 for Phillies in first perfect game in NL since 1880

Aug. 7— Mets trade outfielder Frank Thomas to Phillies for pitcher Gary Kroll and infielder Wayne Graham

Aug. 8— Mets trade pitcher Frank Lary to Milwaukee for pitcher Dennis Ribant

Aug. 27— Mets sign U. of Minnesota-Morris, pitcher Jerry Koosman

Nov. 17— Mets signed recently-fired Yankee manager Yogi Berra as a player-coach

Nov. 23— Mets purchase pitcher Warren Spahn from Milwaukee Braves

1965

June 14— Reds Jim Maloney no-hits Mets for 10 innings only to lose, 1-0, in 11th on Johnny Lewis' homer

July 19— Mets release pitcher-coach Warren Spahn

July 24— Mets manager Casey Stengel fractures hip in a fall getting out of car following an Oldtimer's Day party at Shea

Aug. 30— Casey Stengel announces his retirement as Mets manager and Wes Westrum, his interim replacement, is named his successor

Sep. 3— Jim Hickman becomes first Met to hit 3 homers in 1 game for 13 total bases in 6-3 win over Cardinals

Oct. 20— Mets trade pitcher Al Jackson and third baseman Charlie Smith to Cardinals for third baseman Ken Boyer

1966

Apr. 2— Mets are awarded Southern Cal pitcher Tom Seaver in special lottery with Indians and Phillies after Commissioner William Eckert had voided Braves' signing of Seaver

June 7— Mets, with the first pick in the June amateur draft, select catcher Steve Chilcott over Arizona St. outfielder Reggie Jackson

Nov. 14— George Weiss retires as Mets President and Bing Devine is named as his replacement

Nov. 29— Mets trade second baseman Ron Hunt and outfielder Jim Hickman to Dodgers for outfielder Tommy Davis

1967

Feb. 10— Mets purchase reliever Ron Taylor from Astros' Oklahoma City farm team

Apr. 20— Tom Seaver, going 7 2/3 innings, beats Cubs, 6-1, for his first major league victory

May 10— Mets trade outfielder Larry Elliot to KC A's for third baseman Ed Charles

May 22— Mets trade third baseman Ken Boyer to White Sox for catcher J.C. Martin (acquired 11/27/67)

Sep. 21— Wes Westrum resigns as Mets manager and is replaced on interim basis by coach Salty Parker

Nov. 27— Mets trade pitcher Bill Denehy and cash to Washington Senators for services of Gil Hodges as their manager

Dec. 27— Johnny Murphy replaces Bing Devine as Mets general manager

1968

Apr. 15— Mets defeat Astros 1-0 in marathon (24 innings, 6 hours, 6 mins) game in Astrodome

Dec. 2— Mets draft third baseman Wayne Garrett from Atlanta Braves for $25,000

1969

June 15— Mets trade pitcher Steve Renko, infielder Kevin Collins and 2 other minor leaguers to Expos for first baseman Donn Clendenon

Sep. 5— Tom Seaver Defeats Phillies 5-1 to become Mets' first 20-game winner

Sep. 24— Mets, behind four-hit pitching of rookie Gary Gentry, shutout Cardinals 6-0 to clinch NL's first East Division title before 54,928 at Shea

Oct. 6— Mets win first NL pennant by completing three-game playoff sweep of Braves; Tommie Agee, Wayne Garrett and Ken Boswell homer in 7-4 win before 53,195 at Shea

Oct. 16— Homers by Donn Clendenon and Al Weis and five-hit pitching of Jerry Koosman give Mets 5-3 win over Orioles and their first World Series championship before 57,397 at Shea

Dec. 3— Mets trade outfielder Amos Otis to Royals for third baseman Joe Foy

1970

Jan. 14— Mets general manager John Murphy dies of a heart attack at 61 and is replaced by Bob Scheffing

Apr. 22— Tom Seaver ties a major league record by striking out 19 batters, the last 10 in a row, in pitching Mets to 2-1 win over Padres at Shea

1971

Mar. 31— Mets trade outfielder Ron Swoboda to Expos for outfielder Don Hahn

Aug. 7— Mets score club record 20 runs in 20-6 rout of Braves

Oct. 22— Mets release first baseman Donn Clendenon

Dec. 10— Mets trade pitcher Nolan Ryan and 3 minor leaguers to Angels for third baseman Jim Fregosi

1972

Apr. 2— Gil Hodges dies of heart attack in West Palm Beach, Fla. at age 47 after a round of golf with his coaches

Apr. 6— Yogi Berra is named Mets manager replacing Gil Hodges
Mets trade outfielder Ken Singleton, first baseman Mike Jorgensen and shortstop Tim Foli to Expos for outfielder Rusty Staub

May 11— Mets trade pitcher Charlie Williams to Giants for outfielder Willie Mays

Aug. 13— George Weiss dies at age 78

Nov. 1— Mets trade pitchers Gary Gentry and Danny Frisella to Braves for second baseman Felix Millan and pitcher George Stone

Nov. 27— Mets trade outfielder Tommie Agee to Astros for outfielder Rich Chiles

1973

July 9— Following a clubhouse "pep talk" from Mets Board Chairman M. Donald Grant, "Tug" McGraw shouts to his mates "Ya Gotta Believe!" and thereby coins club's rallying cry to '73 pennant

July 11— Mets sell third baseman Jim Fregosi to Rangers

Aug. 17— Willie Mays belts 660th and last home run of his career in 2-1 Mets loss to Reds at Shea

Aug. 20— Brooklyn high schooler Lee Mazzilli, Mets' No. 1 choice in June amateur draft, signs reported $50,000 contact with club

Sep. 20— In memorable "ball on the wall" game in which Mets threw Richie Zisk out at plate after Dave Augustine's fly off top of left field wall at Shea, NY beats Pirates 4-3 in 13 innings to pull within half game of first place

Sep. 25— In his special night at Shea, Willie Mays says "Goodbye to America."

Oct. 1— Mets beat Cubs 6-4 at Wrigley Field to clinch their 2nd NL East title

Oct. 10— Tom Seaver and Tug McGraw combine on 7-hitter and Mets beat Reds 7-2 in 5th and deciding NL playoff game to clinch their 2nd NL pennant before 50,323 at Shea

1974

Aug. 27— Benny Ayala becomes first Met in history to hit homer in his first major league at-bat

Sep. 11— In the longest night game in major league history (7 hours, 4 mins.), Mets lose 4-3 to Cardinals at Shea in 25 innings

Oct. 1— Bob Scheffing retires as Mets general manager and is replaced by Joe McDonald

Oct. 13— Mets trade pitchers Ray Sadecki and Tommie Moore to Cardinals for third baseman/catcher Joe Torre

Dec. 3— Mets trade reliever Tug McGraw and outfielders Don Hahn and Dave Schneck to Phillies for outfielder Del Unser and catcher John Stearns

1975

Feb. 28— Mets purchase outfielder-first baseman Dave Kingman from Giants

May 14— Outfielder Cleon Jones is fined $2,000 and ordered by Board Chairman M. Donald Grant to make a public apology to Mets fans for breaking training rules in St. Petersburg, Fla.

July 27— Mets release outfielder Cleon Jones

July 28— Mets purchase reliever Skip Lockwood from Oakland A's

Aug. 6— Yogi Berra is fired as Mets manager and replaced by coach Roy McMillan

Aug. 24— Giants' Ed Halicki no-hits Mets 6-0 at S.F.

Sep. 15— Outfielder Mike Vail ties both Mets and NL rookie record by hitting safely in his 23rd consecutive game

Sep. 29— Casey Stengel dies of cancer at 85

Oct. 3— Joe Frazier is named Mets manager to replace Roy McMillan

Oct. 4— Mets owner Joan Whitney Payson dies at 72

Dec. 12— Mets trade outfielder Rusty Staub to Tigers for pitcher Mickey Lolich

1976

July 21— Mets trade third baseman Wayne Garrett and outfielder Del Unser to Expos for outfielders Pepe Mangual and Jim Dwyer

1977

May 31— Joe Frazier is fired and Joe Torre is named Mets player-manager

June 15— Mets trade Tom Seaver to Reds for pitcher Pat Zachry, infielder Doug Flynn and outfielders Steve Henderson and Dan Norman
Mets trade outfielder Dave Kingman to Padres for infielder Bobby Valentine and pitcher Paul Siebert

Aug. 31— Mets trade catcher Jerry Grote to Dodgers for 2 minor leaguers

Dec. 10— In 4-club trade, Mets obtain first baseman Willie Montanez from Texas for pitcher Jon Matlack and first baseman John Milner

1978

Feb. 22— Mets sell second baseman Felix Millan to Taiyo (Japan) Whales

Mar. 23— Mets trade shortstop Bud Harrelson to Phillies for infielder Freddie Andrews

Apr. 1— Reliever Bob Apodaca suffers career-ending elbow injury

May 18— Lenny Randle becomes first Met in history to score 5 runs in 1 game in 8-7 win over Braves

Dec. 8— Mets trade pitcher Jerry Koosman to Twins for pitcher Jesse Orosco

1979

Jan. 1— Mrs. Lorinda deRoulet, daughter of the late Joan Payson, replaces M. Donald Grant as Mets Board Chairman

Oct. 22— Ed Kranepool declares his free agency from Mets

Oct. 27— Mets coach Willie Mays is ordered by Commissioner Bowie Kuhn to disassociate himself from baseball after accepting a job with Bally's Casino in Atlantic City

1980

Jan. 24— Publishing magnate Nelson Doubleday heads group that purchases Mets from Payson family for $21.1 million

Feb. 21— Frank Cashen is named to replace Joe McDonald as Mets general manager

June 3— With nation's No. 1 pick in June amateur draft, Mets select 18-year outfielder Darryl Strawberry from Los Angeles

Dec. 16— Rusty Staub re-signs with Mets as a free agent

1981

Feb. 28— Mets re-acquire Dave Kingman from Cubs for outfielder Steve Henderson

Oct. 4— Joe Torre is fired as Mets manager

Oct. 20— George Bamberger named Mets manager

1982

Feb. 10— Mets acquire outfielder George Foster from the Reds for pitchers Greg Harris and Jim Kern and catcher Alex Trevino

Apr. 1— Mets trade outfielder Lee Mazzilli to Rangers for pitchers Ron Darling and Walt Terrell

June 7— Mets, with 5th selection overall in June amateur draft, take Tampa, Fla. high school pitcher Dwight Gooden and sign him for reported $125,000 bonus

Dec. 16— Mets reacquire Tom Seaver from Reds for pitcher Charlie Puleo and two Minor Leaguers.

1983

June 3— George Bamberger resigns as Mets manager and is replaced by coach Frank Howard on an interim basis

June 15— Mets obtain first baseman Keith Hernandez from Cardinals for pitcher Neil Allen

Oct. 13— Davey Johnson named Mets manager, replacing Frank Howard

1984

Jan. 20— White Sox shock Mets by selecting Tom Seaver in free agent compensation pool

Apr. 7— In his major league debut, 19-year old Dwight Gooden beats Astros 3-2 for his first victory

Dec. 10— Mets acquire catcher Gary Carter from Expos for shortstop Hubie Brooks, outfielder Herm Winningham, catcher Mike Fitzgerald and pitcher Floyd Youmans

1985

July 4— In the latest-ending game in major league history (3:55 a.m.), Mets finally defeat Braves, 16-13, in 19 inning marathon that was repeatedly delayed by rain and lasted 6 hours, 10 mins.

Aug. 25— Dwight Gooden beats Padres 9-3 at Shea to become youngest 20-game winner in modern history

Nov. 4— Rusty Staub opts for free agency.

1969 That Championship Season

What would ultimately evolve into the most exhilarating and wondrous of all Mets seasons began in typical fashion—with a loss. The Mets, as had become their custom, lost their opening game for the eighth straight season. Then again, there was no indication that this season would be dramatically different from any of the immediate previous ones. the '68 Mets had finished ninth, batted a collective .228 and probably had some contribution to the heart attack suffered by manager Gil Hodges in September. There had been no drastic off-season changes made except for the drafting of third baseman Wayne Garrett from the Atlanta Braves' system.

The Mets lost five of their first seven games of '69 and, following a five-game losing streak in late May, were 18-23. On May 28, however, they began an 11-game winning streak that provided the first hint of the miraculous events to come. Then, on the June 15 trading deadline, general manager Johnny Murphy swung into action and acquired the power hitter the Mets had so sorely needed. Dipping into his burgeoning farm system, Murphy shipped minor leaguers Steve Renko, Kevin Collins, Jay Carden and Dave Colon to the Montreal Expos for Donn Clendenon, a 34-year-old first baseman who had driven in 96, 98, 56 and 87 runs respectively in the previous four seasons.

The acquisition of a bonafide power bat for the middle of batting order did not have any immediate effect on the Mets' pennant race progress. The 11-game winning streak prior to the Clendenon deal had thrust them into contending status, but by the end of June they were still seven games out of first place. A month later, on July 30, the Mets suffered a humiliating doubleheader drubbing from their fellow 1962 expansionists, the Houston Astros 16-3 and 11-5. It was during a 10-run third-inning rally in the nightcap by Houston that Hodges suddenly strolled out of the dugout—not to make a pitching change, but, rather, to make an outfielder change. Hodges had felt Mets leftfielder Cleon Jones had not hustled sufficiently on a hit into the leftfield corner. The manager walked out into leftfield and personally escorted Jones off the field. It was a disciplinary move that Hodges had hoped would serve as a message to his ballclub which seemed to be letting the front-running Chicago Cubs take command of the race. Things did not improve over the next couple of weeks either as the Mets slipped into third place, 9½ games behind following three more losses to the pesky Astros in Houston.

Rival managers Earl Weaver and Gil Hodges chat before the start of Game One of the 1969 World Series, the only game the Orioles would win.

It was that three-game sweep that seemed to serve as the Mets' wakeup call. They followed it with 12 wins in their next 13 games to charge back into the race as the September stretch began. At the same time, the first-place Cubs were beginning to show the strains of having gone all season with essentially the same eight regulars playing day in and day out. Coming into New York, Sept. 8, for a crucial two-game series with the Mets, the Cubs had lost four in a row to watch their lead shrivel to 2½ games. In the first game, the Mets won 3-2 on a two-run homer by Tommie Agee and a tie-breaking RBI single by the rookie Garrett. The next night, Tom Seaver, en route to a league-leading 25-win season and his first Cy Young Award, coasted to a 7-1 triumph that sent the Cubs staggering out of town. On Sept. 10, the Mets swept a doubleheader from the Expos to storm into first place as the Cubs continued reeling on a losing streak that would eventually reach eight in a row and 11 out of 12. From August 13 to the end of the season, the Mets won 38 out of 49 games and wound up winning the division by eight games. Lamented Cubs' manager Leo Durocher: "Maybe we did run out of gas, but if the Mets had just played .500 ball we could have hung on. But they just kept winning, winning, winning."

A City Hall celebration was accorded the 1969 World Champions. (From left) Metropolitan Opera star Robert Merrill, M. Donald Grant, Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy and Ed Kranepool.

World Series Outfield. (From left) Center fielder Tommie Agee, right fielder Ron Swoboda and left fielder Cleon Jones.

And the winning did not stop with the regular season. in the first-ever division playoffs, the Mets swept the Atlanta Braves in three games. In the final, historic pennant-clinching game, fireballing Nolan Ryan came on in relief of a shaky Gary Gentry in the third inning and struck out seven.

Now it was on to the World Series where, once again, the Mets were decided underdogs. Their American League opponent, the Baltimore Orioles, had won 109 games and seemingly could match the Mets' strong pitching. If the Mets had Seaver, Jerry Koosman, Gentry, Jim McAndrew and Ryan, the Orioles had two 20-game winners in Dave McNally and Mike Cuellar plus 16-game winner Jim Palmer. And in the first game it appeared as if the Mets were finally about to meet their match and the miracles were about to run out. The Orioles, behind the six-hit pitching of the screwball master Cuellar, topped Seaver 4-1.

In game two, Koosman, backed by a homer by Clendenon, rallied the Mets back even with a masterful two-hitter for 8⅔ innings. The 2-1 Mets' win was sealed, however, by light-hitting Al Weis' two-out RBI single in the ninth inning. It was now that the Mets began reaching down into that pocketful of miracles only to find a few more. The next one came in the fourth inning of game three with the Mets in front 3-0 on a two-run double by Gentry (who had driven in but one run all season long). The Orioles were threatening to get right back into the game in fourth when, with runners at first and second, Elrod Hendricks hit a hard drive to left-center that looked like a certain extra bases "tweener." Agee, who had been pulled around toward right for the lefty-hitting Oriole catcher, reversed field, running nearly 100 feet and caught the ball backhanded in the webbing of his glove—a seemingly impossible catch. The Mets went on to complete the 5-0 win with Ryan hurling the final 2⅓ innings of relief.

Ken Boswell . . . batted .279 in 1969.

In the fourth game, Seaver gained a measure of revenge on Cuellar, this time winning another tense pitching duel, 2-1. The miracle in this game was Ron Swoboda's equally-impossible catch in rightfield. Leading 1-0 on Clendenon's second homer of the series, the Mets faced another crisis when the Orioles put two men on against Seaver in the ninth. Brooks Robinson then hit a slicing liner to right that seemed certain to drop for a bases-clearing hit. But with a last-second, desperation dive, Swoboda was somehow able to catch the ball and only one run scored. Then, in the 10th, the Mets won it for Seaver when Don Buford misjudged Jerry Grote's fly to left for a double and Orioles' pitcher Pete Richert subsequently struck J.C. Martin (who had bunted) in the back with a throw to first. Richert's errant throw allowed pinch runner Rod Gaspar to score all the way from second.

The Mets wrapped up their first-ever world championship and culminated a miracle season with a 5-3 win in the fifth game that was fashioned by yet another homer from Clendenon as well as one from Weis (who hit two all season long). A crowd of 57,397 at Shea went into a frenzy when Jones caught the final out in leftfield. The Mets, the National League doormats for their first six years of existence, were world champions. There were so many integral contributions to the miracle of '69, but here are the principle ones: Tom Seaver (25-7, 2.21), Jerry Koosman (17-9, 2.28, 2 World Series wins), Tommie Agee (.271, 26 HR, 76 RBI), Donn Clendenon (3 World Series homers), Al Weis (.455 in the World Series), Tug McGraw (9-3, 2.24, 12 saves), Ron Taylor (9-4, 2.72, 13 saves), Cleon Jones (.340, 12 HR, 75 RBI).

Slick fielding shortstop Bud Harrelson spent 13 seasons with the Mets from 1965-77.

★ 1969 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 100-62, 1st
LEADING HITTER:
Cleon Jones, .340
LEADING PITCHER:
Tom Seaver, 25-7
HOME RUN LEADER:
Tommie Agee, 26
RBI LEADER:
Tommie Agee, 76
ERA LEADER:
Tom Seaver, 2.21
SAVE LEADER:
Ron Taylor, 13

1970

Back to Reality

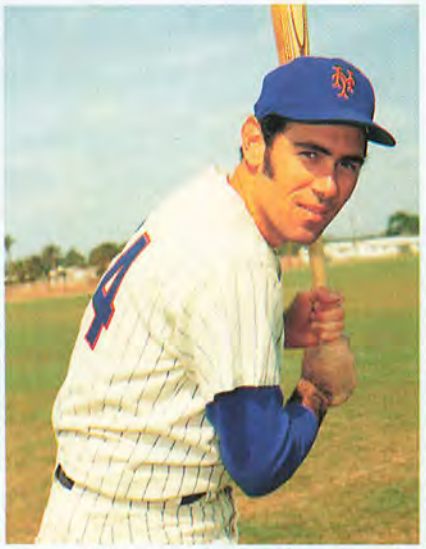
It did not take long for the Miracle Mets to lose their "amazin' " tag. Everything that had gone right for them in that miracle season '69 suddenly went wrong for them in '70. Yes, Tom Seaver led the league in ERA (2.81), but despite a 14-5 record at the All Star break, he wound up with a hardluck 18-12 mark for the season. Jerry Koosman, Seaver's lefthanded pitching sidekick, was sidelined two months with elbow and shoulder miseries, and both Gary Gentry and Jim McAndrew were also bothered by arm troubles. So the great young pitching staff of '69 that had been the key ingredient in the miracle run to the world championship was battered and quite ordinary in '70.

Similarly, the Mets' hitters had a dramatic comedown in "the year after." Cleon Jones, a .340 hitter in '69, batted .277 in '70 and, in fact, did not even surpass the .250 mark until mid-August. Only a 23-game hitting streak—which established a club record—enabled Jones to reach respectability late in the season. Another major disappointment was third baseman Joe Foy, whom the Mets had obtained from the Kansas City Royals for promising outfielder Amos Otis during the off-season. Foy, a .262 hitter with 71 RBI for the Royals in '69, was a total bust as a Met and wound up being sent to the minors at the end of the '70 season after hitting just .236 with six homers and 37 RBI.

Amazingly—and there's that word again—the Mets managed to stay in the '70 race all the way to the end despite the breakdown of their pitching. Part of the reason for that was the inability of the eventual NL East championship Pirates to put the race away. Another reason was the improved play of some of the Mets' less-publicized principles of '69.

In particular, Tommie Agee set a Mets club record with 31 stolen bases and enjoyed a "complete" season by hitting .286 and walloping 24 homers. And Donn Clendenon, another hero of the '69 World Series, continued his considerable offensive contributions in '70 by hitting 22 homers and leading the team in RBI with 97. However, it was manager Gil Hodges' reluctance to play Clendenon every day in the early going of the season that some critics felt was a major contributing factor in the club's inability to repeat. Behind the plate, Jerry Grote had another standout season, batting .255 while leading all NL catchers with 855 putouts.

Because they did stay in the race until the end, the Mets were able to keep the Shea turnstiles spinning and wound up setting a new attendance record—2,697,479. It was the second highest attendance in baseball history and the highest ever by a New York team.



Power-hitting right fielder Art Shamsky, acquired from Cincinnati after the 1967 season, batted .300 in 1969 and .293 in 1970.

Catcher Jerry Grote (shown here with Tom Seaver) was the Mets' regular catcher for nine seasons.

★ 1970 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 83-79, 3rd
LEADING HITTER:
Tommie Agee, .286
LEADING PITCHER:
Tom Seaver, 18-12
HOME RUN LEADER:
Tommie Agee, 24
RBI LEADER:
Donn Clendenon, 97
ERA LEADER:
Tom Seaver, 2.81
SAVE LEADER:
Ron Taylor, 13

Stagnation

1971

If the Mets thought their fall from baseball heaven in 1970 was only a temporary setback, they were to be badly mistaken in 1971. The fall became even greater in '71 as the pitching, with the notable exceptions of Tom Seaver, Tug McGraw, and Danny Frisella, continued to regress. Seaver, immune to the gradual decline of his once-amazin' mates, was merely "Tom Terrific" in '71, winning 20 games, leading the league in ERA (1.76) for the second straight year while also finishing first again in strikeouts (289), the most ever in the NL by a righthanded pitcher. Seaver's sensational season was not nearly enough, however, to keep the Mets respectable. The Mets remained in the race for the first three months of the season and were even in first place by as late as June 10. But then came July when they lost 11 of their first 12 and finished the month with a 9-20 record. Not since Sept. of '65 had the Mets experienced such an awful month of baseball and the result of it left them 11½ games behind.

Danny Frisella saved 12 games for the 1971 Mets and posted a 1.98 earned run average.

If Seaver was the beacon of the starting pitching, McGraw's star burned almost as bright in the bullpen. The effervescent lefthander saved eight games and posted 1.70 ERA. In addition, righthander Frisella saved 12 games and had a 1.98 ERA to give the Mets the sort of 1-2 bullpen punch that, on any other year, might have meant championship.

But 1971 was a very difficult season for the Mets and once the July swoon put

Cleon Jones, a .281 career hitter, led the Mets with 14 homers, 69 RBI and a .319 batting average in 1971.

them out of the race, there was very little worth salvaging. Instead, the comraderie of '69 turned to acrimony in '71. Tommie Agee and Gary Gentry exchanged some angry words after one twilight game in which Agee misjudged a fly ball in center field that allowed three first-inning runs to score. Also, Cleon Jones incurred manager Gil Hodges' wrath by refusing to play on a damp field one game. Hodges responded by benching Jones for several more games.

Injuries again played a part in the Mets' demise in '71. Agee was hobbled much of the season by a bad knee and missed numerous games. Jerry Koosman was again beset by arm troubles and slumped even further to 6-11. Two other disappointments who could not blame injuries for their downfalls were Donn Clendenon and Nolan Ryan. Clendenon, after setting a Mets' club RBI record with 97 in '70, dropped 60 RBI and lost his first base job to Ed Kranepool. Ryan, though still regarded as one of the most promising pitchers in baseball because of his overpowering 95 mile per hour fastball, was 8-4 at the end of June and finished up 10-14.

Despite it all, the crowds kept flocking the Shea—2,266,680 in a season that was devoid of a pennant race from mid-July. They did have a bit more to cheer than just Seaver, though. Jones, despite his problems with Hodges, rebounded from his slump-filled '70 season to hit .319. Bud Harrelson was an All Star selectee at shortstop and Grote again held firm and steady behind the plate, hitting .270.

★ 1971 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 83-79, 3rd (tie)
LEADING HITTER:
Cleon Jones, .319
LEADING PITCHER:
Tom Seaver, 20-10
HOME RUN LEADER:
Ed Kranepool, 14
Tommie Agee, 14
Cleon Jones, 14
RBI LEADER:
Cleon Jones, 69
ERA LEADER:
Tom Seaver, 1.76
SAVE LEADER:
Danny Frisella, 12

1972

Truimph and Tragedy

Spring training was drawing to a conclusion and the major legue players were announcing their intention to strike when tragedy struck the Mets on April 2, 1972. Gil Hodges was returning to his hotel from the golf course in West Palm Beach, Fla. when he was suddenly stricken with another heart attack and died. With the Mets in a state of shock, Board Chairman M. Donald Grant moved swiftly to name Yogi Berra, one of Hodges' coaches, as the team's new manager.

Berra inherited a club that was in a state of transition from two major trades. Over the winter, the Mets again attempted to fill their longstanding void at third base by trading the promising fireballer Nolan Ryan to the California Angels for Jim Fregosi. Then, the day Berra was named, the club traded three more highly-regarded young players, outfielders Ken Singleton and Mike Jorgensen and infielder Tim Foli to the Montreal Expos in exchange for the popular red-headed slugger Rusty Staub. With Staub and Fregosi adding considerable punch to their attack in the early going and Tom Seaver being joined by another consistent winner in rookie Jon Matlack, Yogi's Mets got off to a 25-7 start and were 31-12 by June 3.

Gary Gentry pitched for the Mets from 1969 to 1972, winning 39 games and one in the 1969 World Series.

Legendary Willie Mays, acquired from the Giants for pitcher Charlie Williams, homered in his first game as a Met to defeat his former team.

It was at that juncture that ill fortune once again intervened. Staub was struck on his right hand by a pitch from the Braves' George Stone and was soon unable to grip the bat. By mid-July, Berra's other two outfielders, Tommie Agee (rib cage) and Cleon Jones (elbow) joined Staub on the sidelines. As a unit, the Mets would go on to hit only .225 in '72, easily the worst in the NL. If not for the pitching—which prevented them from ever losing more than three in a row—the Mets would have bottomed out quickly under Berra. Instead, Seaver finished 21-12, the rookie sensation Matlack was 15-10 and Tug McGraw provided 27 saves out of the bullpen with a 1.70 ERA.

Besides the Staub, Jones and Agee injuries, the Mets also lost shortstop Bud Harrelson for a month with back strain. And Fregosi, after a promising start, proved no solution to the longstanding third base problem. He had reported overweight to spring training and never seemed to get back into shape, finishing up the season with a .232 average and just five homers and 32 RBI.

Over the winter, the transition continued with trades moving out two more heroes of '69, Agee and Gary Gentry. Agee was traded to the Astros for outfielder Rich Chiles, while Gentry, bothered by arm trouble in '72, went to the Braves in what would prove to be a much more significant deal for second baseman Felix Millan.

Willie Mays Remembers:

On May 11, 1972, before their season began to disintegrate with injuries, the Mets made one of the most historic trades in New York baseball history by bringing Willie Mays back home from the San Francisco Giants. Mays, who was acquired for pitcher Charlie Williams, hit a home run in his first game as a Met to beat the Giants 5-4. But he batted just .250 that season and .211 in '73, struggling visibly in the outfield in the World Series the latter season vs. Oakland. No one knew his skills were eroded better than Willie:

"I always said the press gave me those last two seasons in New York," Mays said. "It was payment for the 20 I gave them. I wasn't the same ballplayer and I didn't fool nobody. That's why I quit."

★ 1972 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 83-73, 3rd
LEADING HITTER:
Rusty Staub, .293
LEADING PITCHER:
Tom Seaver, 21-12
HOME RUN LEADER:
John Milner, 17
RBI LEADER:
Cleon Jones, 52
ERA LEADER:
Jon Matlack, 2.32
SAVE LEADER:
Tug McGraw, 27

★★★★★ THE ALL-TIME METS TEAM ★★★★★

CATCHER: Jerry Grote.
Spent most of 12 seasons ('66-'77) with Mets as their No. 1 catcher and superb handler of the many outstanding pitchers of that era. Was behind the plate for all Mets' games in '69 and '73 World Series.

FIRST BASE: Keith Hernandez.
Is generally credited as being the player who made the Mets respectable again after coming over from the Cardinals for Neil Allen 6/15/83. Hit .311 with 94 RBI in '84 and .309 with 91 RBI in '85. Perennial Gold glove winner.

SECOND BASE: Ron Hunt.
The Mets' first genuine "star" performer, he finished second to Pete Rose in 1963 Rookie of the Year balloting after hitting .272 with 10 homers in 143 games. Batted .303 in '64 and .288 in '66. Mets traded him to the Dodgers after '66.

SHORTSTOP: Bud Harrelson.
Mainstay of Mets' infield from 1965-77. During that period, he was regarded as one of the best fielding shortstops in baseball. Played every game of '69 and '73 World Series.

THIRD BASE: Wayne Garrett.
The only time third base wasn't a question-mark position for the Mets was '69-'75 when Wayne Garrett held forth there. His best season was '73 when he had 16 homers and 76 RBI. He also hit 2 homers in the '73 World Series vs. Oakland.

RIGHT FIELD: Darryl Strawberry.
One of the most exciting young players to come along in years. He was the Mets' No. 1 amateur draft choice (No. 1 in nation too!) in 1980. Was NL Rookie of the Year in '83 (.257, 26 homers, 74 RBI), then followed that up by hitting .276 with 26 homers and 97 RBI in '84. In '85, he missed 6 weeks of the season and still had 29 HR and 79 RBI.

CENTER FIELD: Tommie Agee.
Was a pivotal player in turning Mets from an also-ran into a contender when acquired from the White Sox in '67. Was Mets' center-fielder from '68-'72 and led the club in homers '69 (26) and '70 (24). Also led the club in RBI (76) in '69. He made two of the greatest catches in World Series history, robbing Orioles' Paul Blair and Elrod Hendricks of extra base hits in '69 while preventing five runs.

LEFT FIELD: Cleon Jones.
Perennial high average hitter, who might have had even better overall numbers had it not been for so many injuries. Was Mets' regular leftfielder (when not hurt) from 1966-74, batting .297 in '68, .340 in '69, .319 in '71 and .282 in '74. Ranked 3rd in the NL in batting in '69.

PINCH HITTER: Rusty Staub.
Although he made his mark as one of the game's all time premier pinch hitters at the end of his career with the Mets (leading the NL in pinch hits and pinch hit RBI in both '83 and '84), Staub was also one of the Mets' all-time great outfielders from '72-'75. He hit 64 homers for the Mets during that four-year span, driving in 105 runs in '75.

RIGHTHANDED STARTER: Tom Seaver.
The Mets "Franchise" from 1967-77 and again briefly in 1983, he won Cy Young Awards in '69 (22-9, 2.38), '73 (19-10, 2.08) and '75 (22-9, 2.38). Won 20 games four times for the Mets and led the NL in wins twice, ERA three times and strikeouts five times.

RIGHTHANDED STARTER: Dwight Gooden.
He has given every indication of being one of the greatest pitchers in the history of the game. The National League Rookie of the Year in 1984 when he was 17-9 with a 2.60 ERA amid a league-leading 276 strike-outs. In 1985, he followed up with one of the most sensational seasons ever, winning the rare triple crown of pitching—wins (24), ERA (1.53) and strikeouts (268) while earning his first Cy Young Award.

LEFTHANDED STARTER: Jerry Koosman.
The lefthanded compliment to Tom Seaver from 1968-76, Koosman remained a mainstay of the Mets' rotation through '78. He was the top rookie pitcher in the NL in '68 (19-12, 2.08) and he also won 21 in '76. He ranks second on Mets' all-time win list with 140.

LEFTHANDED STARTER: Jon Matlack.
A consistent double figures winner for the Mets from 1972-77. He won 82 games as a Met, third on their all-time list. Had ERAs under 3.00 three times. Won 16 games in '75, 17 in '76.

RIGHTHANDED RELIEVER: Skip Lockwood.
The ace of the Mets' bullpen in the years following the trade of Tug McGraw. Saved 65 games as a Met from '75-'79, third on their all-time list. Saved 19 in '76 and 20 in '77. Appeared in 227 total games as a Met, 6th on their all-time list.

LEFTHANDED RELIEVER: Tug McGraw.
The Mets' all-time reliever and one of their most popular players ever, he holds the club record for most saves lifetime (85). He ranks third on their all-time list for appearances (364). Saved 27 in '72, 25 in '73 and was 11-4 with 1.70 ERA in '71.

1973

The Second Miracle

"Ya Gotta Believe!"

Considering the unseemingly amount of tragedy and trauma inflicted upon them in 1972, the Mets could only hope that things HAD to get better in 1973. They did, although for the better part of the season no one was quite that certain.

The National League East of 1973 was, by all accounts, baseball's "lost division." Or was it the "least division?" Whatever, there was only one team that played over .500 ball when it had ended and that team was Yogi Berra's Mets which used its familiar Met formula of strong pitching to forge an 82-79 mark. It was not until September that the Mets really began to act as if they were serious about the race. They won 20 of 28 games in September to jump from fifth place to first. Still, it was not until one day after the scheduled end of the season—after heavy rains in Chicago prevented them from completing their schedule on time—that the NL East flag was clinched. With only five weeks remaining (Aug. 30), the Mets had been in last place.

Reliever Tug McGraw, who instilled the "Ya Gotta Believe" philosophy in his teammates recorded 25 saves in 1973 even though he had none in June, July and August.

After replacing the late Gil Hodges, Yogi Berra became only the second manager in history to win pennants in both leagues in 1973.

The '73 pennant was indeed a tribute to Berra's patience as, once again, injuries threatened to decimate the Mets. On April 30, John Milner went on the disabled list with a pulled hamstring. He was leading the club in homers at the time. Three days later, the Mets fell out of first place and did not return until September. On May 11, Jerry Grote, the club's mainstay catcher, suffered a broken wrist and was placed on the 60-day disabled list. That same night Rusty Staub was again hit on the hand and, for the second straight season, was hampered in gripping the bat.

From the point, the injuries went from a trickle to a steady flow. Cleon Jones went on the d.l. June 1 with a strained right wrist; Reserve outfielder George "The Mad Stork" Theodore was hit in the eye June 3 and sent home; On June 4, Bud Harrelson fractured his left wrist making a double play. Harrlelson and Theodore would both go on the d.l. a second time—Harrelson for a fractured chest bone in August and Theodore for a broken hip the result of an outfield collision with Don Hahn.

In addition to all the injuries, Berra found himself operating without a bullpen most of the early going. Tug McGraw endured a baffling slump following his brilliant '72 season and failed to save even one game in June, July and August of '73. Righthander Phil Hennigan, obtained from the Indians over the winter for the specific purpose of aiding McGraw, was a major disappointment and was released with an 0-4 record. As Yogi so bluntly put it, in perfect Yogi style: "If you ain't got a bullpen, you ain't got nothin'."

It was in late August, however, that everything began to come together for this previously star-crossed team. Harrelson and Jones returned to the starting lineup and McGraw, after finally taking his troubles to a friend who taught the values of positive thinking, suddenly regained his confidence and began saving games. It was while driving to the ballpark one day that McGraw kept recalling the words his friend had left him with: "Tug, you've just got to believe in yourself." It was those words "Ya Gotta Believe" that McGraw soon began ingraining on the minds of all his teammates and a new

Mets' rallying slogan was born.

Still, there had been much speculation that the Mets' management would not wait for the club to turn it around. The New York Post had run a poll of its readers asking them who deserved to go: Berra, general manager Bob Scheffing or Board Chairman M. Donald Grant. Berra finished third, but Grant's subsequent vote of confidence was hardly a ringing one for the beleagured manager. "We will not make a change unless forced to by public opinion."

True to his nature, Berra refused to allow himself to be affected by all the turmoil around him. Throughout all the injuries and speculation about his job security, he kept pointing to the fact that no one had taken command of the NL East race. It was probably somewhere in those troubled early months of '73 that Yogi was heard to say: "It ain't over 'til it's over."

In the opinion of Tom Seaver, who won his second Cy Young Award and again led the league in ERA (2.08) with a 19-10 record, the game in which the Mets really began believing in themselves was Sept. 18 vs. the Pirates. Trailing 4-1 going into the ninth, they rallied for five runs for a 6-5 victory. They went on to sweep the next three games from the Pirates and charged into first place to stay. Two nights later, Willie Mays, hobbled by injuries and clearly at the end of a brilliant, Hall of Fame career, announced he would retire after the season. A night was given Mays, Sept. 25, at which time he told 53,603 fans at Shea: "Willie Mays, it's time to say good-

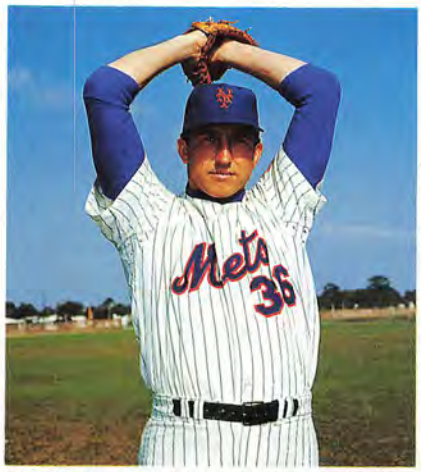
John Milner. . . led the Mets in home runs with 23 in 1973.

bye to America."

Having won the NL East by the narrow 1½-game margin with the worst record of any division winner ever, the Mets went into the '73 NL playoffs decided underdogs to the Cincinnati Reds of Pete Rose, Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan, Tony Perez, Dave Concepcion & Co. But, as so often is the case in a short series, the superior pitching dominated—and if there was one thing not to ever be underestimated about the Mets of '69-'73, it was their pitching. Ironically, in the playoff opener, Seaver struck out 13, yielded just two runs in 8 ⅓ innings and wound up losing 2-1 on homers to Rose and Bench.

shut the Reds out, 5-0, on two hits and the Mets came back to Shea to take a 2-1 lead in games when Jerry Koosman struck out nine in a 9-2 laugher. The Reds forced the series to a deciding fifth game by winning another pitchers' duel, 2-1, in the fourth game.

That left it to Seaver again and this time the Mets' ace was treated to a 13-hit attack to beat the Reds 7-2. A colorful sidelight to the exciting series was the fistfight between Rose and Harrelson at second base in the fifth inning of the third game. Rose later admitted he had slid hard into Harrelson at second in an effort to arouse his slumping teammates.



Jerry Koosman. . . upped his World Series record to 3-0 in 1973.

Unfortunately for Berra and his overachieving new "amazins", the miracle run ended with the playoffs. In the World Series against the Oakland A's, the Mets led three games to two, only to drop the final two in Oakland behind Seaver and then Matlack. Their pitching staff held the A's to a composite .212 average for the series and the Mets outscored Oakland 24-21, but in those final two games, Berra's batsmen could muster only three runs. The hero of the Series for Oakland was—who else?—Mr. October himself, Reggie Jackson, who hit a collective .310 with seven RBI for the seven games and slammed the killer two-run homer off Matlack that capped a four-run, third-inning A's uprising in game seven.

Bud Harrelson and Felix Millan provided the Mets with a steady double-play combination for five seasons, 1973-77.

★ 1973 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 82-79, first
LEADING HITTER:
Felix Millan, .290
LEADING PITCHER:
Tom Seaver, 19-10
HOME RUN LEADER:
John Milner, 23
RBI LEADER:
Rusty Staub, 76
ERA LEADER:
Tom Seaver, 2.08
SAVE LEADER:
Tug McGraw, 25

1974

The Long Fall

Perhaps lulled into too much believing by the Mets' stirring comeback run to the pennant in '73, the front office made no significant off-season player moves for '74. It was their reasoning that the Mets, despite some soft spots offensively, had more than enough pitching to compensate. They had gone to the seventh game of the World Series in '73 with that pitching, after all, and it looked deep enough to get them at least that far again. But they had not counted on both Tom Seaver and Tug McGraw experiencing off-years together.

Seaver, bothered by a sciatic nerve condition in his left hip, was plagued by a lack of velocity all season and finished the '74 season with a very un-Seaver-like 11-11, 3.20 ERA mark. McGraw, meanwhile, reverted to the same sort of ineffectiveness that had totally sapped his confidence much of the summer months of '73. But unlike '73, there was no September recovery for the unpredictable lefty reliever in '74, and he wound up with a 6-11 record, just three saves and a 4.15 ERA.

With Seaver and McGraw failing to even approach their previous year's form, manager Yogi Berra suffered through a dismal season in which the Mets fell 20 games under .500 and wound up fifth. The problem, as Berra found out, was that no one was able to take up where Seaver and McGraw had left off. The Mets' bullpen as a unit managed just 14 saves for the season, 11 fewer than McGraw himself had posted in '73. And the starters behind Seaver were equally disappointing. Jon Matlack hurled seven shutouts and still wound up 13-15. George Stone, a 12-game winner in '73, came up with arm trouble and won only two games. There had been hope that rookie Craig Swan could fill the void except that he appeared in only seven games, winning just one. Only Jerry Koosman (15-11) improved on his '73 record.

Like '73, the Mets were also plagued by their share of injuries. Throughout the entire '74 season, Cleon Jones was hobbled by a sore left knee, but managed to hit .282 with 60 RBI despite sporadic playing time. Again, too, shortstop Bud Harrelson was sidelined for a lengthy period, this time with a broken hand after being struck by a pitch. And Jerry Grote, who missed half of '73, did not catch a game after Aug. 26 of '74 because of a severely bruised hand. Rusty Staub was bothered by injuries all year and suffered through one of his worst seasons in the big leagues (.258). He did manage to lead the club in RBI, however, with 78.

Jerry Koosman (shown here with Yogi Berra) improved his record to 15-11 in 1974. He would win 21 games for the Mets in 1976. Berra smiling here, but fired as manager in 1975.

Jon Matlack slipped to 13-15 in 1974 despite leading the major leagues with seven shutouts.

It was obvious, though, that the front office had miscalculated badly by standing pat after the '73 success. The Mets had glaring offensive weaknesses, particularly center field (where Don Hahn hit just .258 with 28 RBI) and third base (where Wayne Garrett slumped to .224 with 13 homers and 53 RBI), that only further doomed their '74 season.

Ed Kranepool batted .300 for the first time in 1974 and led the majors with 17 pinch hits in 35 at-bats.

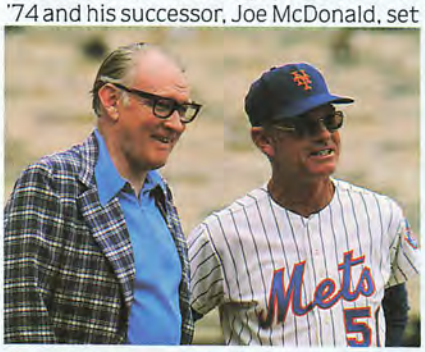
★ 1974 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 71-91, 5th
LEADING HITTER:
Cleon Jones, .282
LEADING PITCHER:
Jerry Koosman, 15-11
HOME RUN LEADER:
John Milner, 20
RBI LEADER:
Rusty Staub, 78
ERA LEADER:
Jon Matlack, 2.41
SAVE LEADER:
Harry Parker, 4

Kong Arrives, Yogi Departs

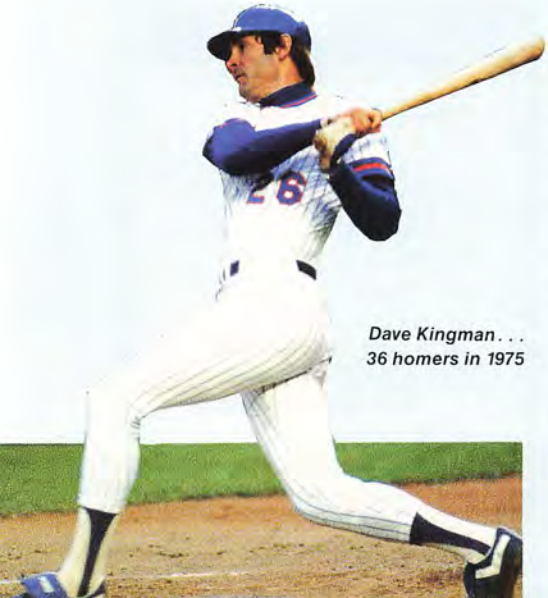
1975

The stunning plunge from first to fifth jolted the Mets' front office into a flurry of off-season trading activity in hopes of restoring the franchise to pennant contention. Bob Scheffing retired as Mets' general manager in October of '74 and his successor, Joe McDonald, set

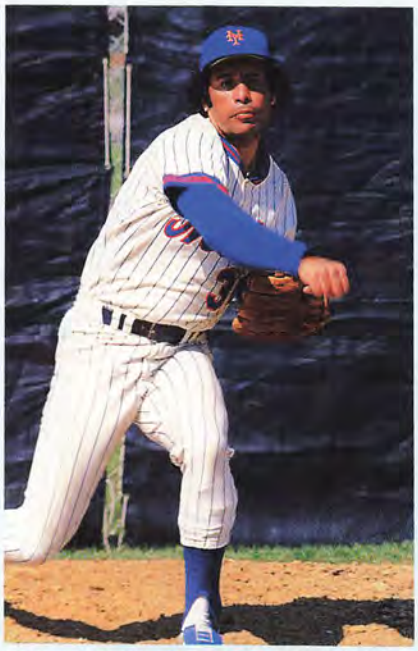


In his first season as the club's General Manager, Joe McDonald (left) had to replace Yogi Berra with Roy McMillan (right) as skipper of the Mets.

out on a course to improve the club's longstanding weak offense. On Oct. 13, the Mets executed one of the more popular deals of their 12-year existence by acquiring former NL Most Valuable Player, Joe Torre, from the Cardinals in exchange for pitchers Ray Sadecki and Tommie Moore. Though 34 now, Torre, it was hoped, could give the Mets some



Dave Kingman . . . 36 homers in 1975



Reliever Bob Apodaca led the club with 13 saves in a 1.48 earned run average in 1975.

needed punch in three positions, catcher, first base and third. Then, five weeks later at the winter meetings, McDonald moved to fill two offensive voids with one trade by swapping the popular but puzzling relief ace Tug McGraw to the Phillies for center fielder Del Unser and a highly-touted young catcher named John Stearns. In another deal, an outfielder of some promise, Mike Vail, was obtained from the Cardinals for infielder Teddy Martinez. But there was to be one more dramatic off-season deal for more offense and that came in spring training when the Mets purchased moody slugger Dave Kingman from the San Francisco Giants.

Now manager Yogi Berra had some bats to go with his pitching and, on the surface, it looked like a major success as Kingman set a Mets' one-season home run record (36), Tom Seaver rebounded from his 11-11 of '74 to go 22-9 and win another Cy Young Award, and Rusty Staub became the first Met in history to knock in over 100 runs in a season. Unfortunately, Berra was not around to see all of those figures reached. He was fired on August 6 with the Mets floundering in third place just three games over .500. "We are trying to salvage something from this season," said Board Chairman M. Donald Grant in naming Roy McMillan as interim manager.

Berra was not the only victim of the disappointing season. Eleven days prior to his firing, the Mets released the popular leftfielder Cleon Jones who had been curtailed to just 21 games because of a knee injury. Prior to his release, Jones had incurred Berra's wrath by refusing to go into leftfield after pinch hitting in a game July 18. Earlier in the year, Jones had been fined $2,000 by Grant for breaking training rules and was forced to make a public apology.

But if anything, it was another injury to the invaluable but brittle shortstop, Bud Harrelson, that doomed the Mets' '75 season. Harrelson, the guts of the Mets' infield, underwent surgery for loose cartliage in his right knee and was forced to relinquish the shortstop job to journeyman Mike Phillips, who had been picked up on waivers from the Giants, May 4. Torre, meanwhile, proved to be a disappointment at third, hitting just .247 and showing limited range. And after Seaver, the starting pitching fell off drastically with Jerry Koosman going 14-13, Jon Matlack 16-12 and disappointing rookie Randy Tate winding up 5-13. If there were any major plusses about the '75 Mets, they were Kingman, Unser (who hit .295), Vail, who came up late in the season and set a club record by hitting in 23 consecutive games, and righthander Bob Apodaca, McGraw's bullpen replacement who saved 13 and had a 1.48 ERA.

★ 1975 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 82-80, 3rd (tie)
LEADING HITTER:
Del Unser, .294
LEADING PITCHER:
Tom Seaver, 22-9
HOME RUN LEADER:
Dave Kingman, 36
RBI LEADER:
Rusty Staub, 105
ERA LEADER:
Tom Seaver, 2.38
SAVE LEADER:
Bob Apodaca, 13

1976

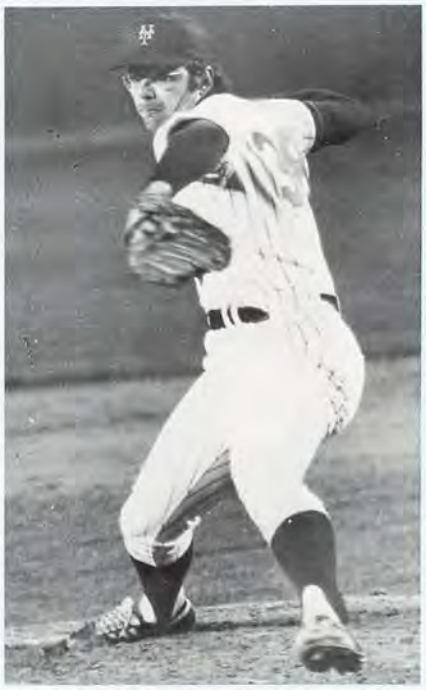
Three Guys Named Joe

The days immediately following the end of the 1975 season were extremely trying ones for Joe McDonald, the Mets' freshman general manager. On Oct. 4, 1975, Mrs. Joan Payson died at age 72, leaving the ownership of the Mets in a state of uncertainty. In the meantime, McDonald was confronted with the task of selecting a new manager for the Mets as the decision had been made not to retain Roy McMillan, the interim skipper in the aftermath of Yogi Berra's firing. There was considerable popular sentiment for Joe Torre, the veteran ex-Cardinal MVP who had expressed interest in the job after a disappointing first season as a Met. But McDonald, remaining true to his roots as the former farm director for the Mets, selected Joe Frazier, a relative unknown who had forged a successful career as minor league manager in the Mets' system. This Joe, while not Torre, brought as credentials to the job three consecutive pennants in the Mets' minor league system, the last being at Tidewater, the club's flagship farm in the International League.

Then, at the winter meetings, McDonald, under pressure from above from Board Chairman M. Donald Grant, traded the popular Rusty Staub, the team's leading hitter in '75, (105 RBI) to the Tigers for aging (35) lefthander Mickey Lolich. It was a trade that made no one happy. Staub was not particularly happy to be leaving although his exit was prompted by a contract dispute with Grant. The fans were certainly not happy to see Rusty go. And Lolich, upon learning of the deal, at first refused to report to the Mets and finally had to be coaxed by Grant personally into accepting his assignment to New York. Meanwhile, it had been determined that Mike Vail, the promising rookie who had hit .302 with a club record 23-game hitting streak upon being recalled late in '75, would take Staub's place in right field. But in February of '76, Vail dislocated his ankle playing basketball and wound up being unavailable to the new Mets manager until the middle of June.

So it was not under the best of circumstances that Joe Frazier assumed the reins as Mets manager. And in quick time the circumstances became even worse. Spring training in '76 was marred by a players' strike which, from the Mets' standpoint, was punctuated by the active role of Tom Seaver. Between his militant role in the labor negotiations and his continuing wrangle with Grant over a longterm contract, Seaver became a cause celebre in the spring of '76. So hostile did matters get, that McDonald, under pressure from Grant, came close to trading Seaver to the Los Angeles Dodgers for righthander Don Sutton. Seaver finally settled his contract differences with a three-year deal, but all his hardline negotiations apparently took their toll as he won just 14 games in '76. Lolich was an even bigger disappointment, going 8-13. And on July 19, perhaps the worst blow of all to befall the rookie manager Frazier occurred when Dave Kingman dove for a ball in leftfield and tore the ligaments in his thumb. At the time, Kingman was leading the majors in homers (32) and the Mets in RBI (69). He was lost for six weeks and hit only five home runs after he did return on Aug. 27.

The Mets as a unit simply could not overcome all these handicaps and were never a factor in the pennant race after mid-July. They finished third, 15 games behind the division-winning Phillies. It was indeed a frustrating season for the two Joes, Frazier and McDonald. Before it was over, McDonald would make one more unpopular trade, sending longtime third base mainstay Wayne Garrett and center fielder Del Unser to the Montreal Expos on July 21 for a couple of backup outfielders, Jim Dwyer and Pepe Mangual. The final disappointment was the season attendance mark—1,468,754, a drop of 300,000 from 1975 and the Mets' lowest at Shea Stadium.



Righty Skip Lockwood enjoyed his best seasons in the majors in 1976 and '77 recording 19 and 20 saves respectively.

Joe Frazier (left) managed the club in 1976, but was replaced during the 1977 season by popular Joe Torre.

★ 1976 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 86-76, 3rd
LEADING HITTER:
Felix Millan, .282
LEADING PITCHER:
Jerry Koosman, 21-10
HOME RUN LEADER:
Dave Kingman, 37
RBI LEADER:
Dave Kingman, 86
ERA LEADER:
Tom Seaver, 2.59
SAVE LEADER:
Skip Lockwood, 19

The Shocker

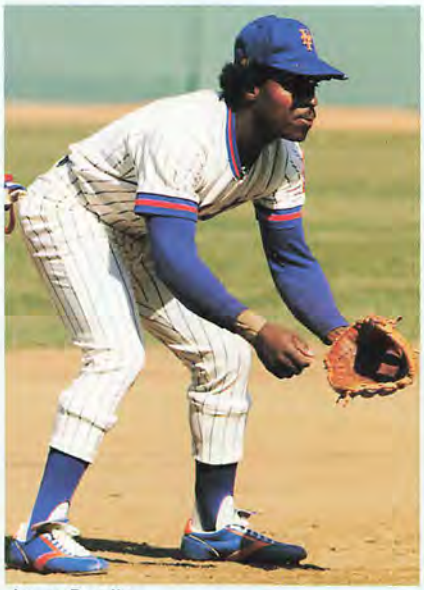
1977

If Joe Frazier thought his first season as a big league manager was full of unexpected mine fields, he could not possibly have anticipated the explosion of 1977 that, ultimately, initiated the decline of the Mets' franchise to equal its darkest days of the early '60s. The seeds were planted in the spring when both Seaver, the Mets' "franchise" pitching ace and three-time Cy Young Award winner, and Kingman, the club's greatest single-season home run producer, both confronted Board Chairman M. Donald Grant with demands for new contracts. Kingman, who had hit 36 and 37 homers respectively in the two previous years, was asking for the same kind of money ($2.7 million) being reaped by the new wave of free agents. Seaver, on the other hand, compounded his continuing dissatisfaction with the three-year contract he had signed the year before with severe criticism of Grant's management of the ballclub after the death of Joan Payson. Grant, charged Seaver, was pinching pennies and refusing to compete for free agents.

"We will be competitive," Grant insisted. But when the Mets limped off to a miserable 15-30 start, Frazier was fired as manager and replaced by the popular Joe Torre. Grant, meanwhile, made no significant player moves except to claim on waivers utilityman Lenny Randle from Texas. Randle had been placed on waivers by the Rangers after punching out his manager Frank Lucchesi in spring training.

It was indeed a smoldering volcano that Torre took over. Two weeks later, it blew sky high. On the June 15 trading deadline, hostilities between Seaver and Grant had reached the breaking point for both. Seaver, after first agreeing to a three-year contract extension worked out by Mrs. Payson's daughter, Lorinda deRoulet (the new club president), changed his mind. That night, in what became known as the Midnight Massacre, Grant traded Seaver to the Cincinnati Reds for four young players, pitcher Pat Zachry, infielder Doug Flynn and outfielders Steve Henderson and Dan Norman. On the heels of that deal, Grant shipped the unhappy Kingman to the San Diego Padres for outfielder-infielder Bobby Valentine and pitcher Paul Siebert. Two and a half months later, the housecleaning was completed with the trade of longtime catcher Jerry Grote to the Dodgers for a couple of minor leaguers.

As could be expected, the departure of the team's best pitcher and most dangerous long ball hitter resulted in an overall collapse of the ballclub. There were other contributing factors, however, to the Mets' fall to last place, 37 games behind. Jon Matlack, the club's no. 3 starter, came down with a sore shoulder. Jerry Koosman, the No. 2 starter behind Seaver, went from 21 wins in '76 to 20 losses in '77. Second baseman Felix Millan, showing his age (36), slumped early then broke his shoulder in a fight with Pittsburgh's catcher Ed Ott in mid-August and was lost for the season. Only Randle, who had arrived with a "bad boy" reputation, turned in good things in '77, batting .304 after being installed as the club's regular third baseman by Torre. The worst omen of all, though, was the attendance—1,066,825—which represented a drop of 1.6 million over seven years. No team in history had ever lost that many fans so fast.



Lenny Randle

Lenny Randle Remembers:

Lenny Randle came to the Mets under the most difficult of circumstances on April 26, 1977. A few days earlier, the versatile infielder-outfielder had become engaged in a shocking fistfight with his manager with the Texas Rangers, Frank Lucchesi. Randle had reportedly become upset that Lucchesi had given his second base job away to rookie Bump Wills. Angry words erupted into flying fists and Lucchesi wound up in the hospital. The Mets' acquisition of Randle, as a result, was viewed with considerable skepticism. But Randle soon quieted the furor and atoned as best he could for his one mindless moment. He batted .304 in 136 games for the Mets in '77 and proved to be their most valuable player that season.

"Playing at Shea Stadium was like the Beatles in town every day. I never saw so much fan enthusiasm until I came to play in New York. I wish everybody the experience I had with the Mets. I remember stepping up to the plate at Shea Stadium for the first time and getting a standing ovation before I even swung the bat. It was the fans' way, I suppose, of letting me know they were accepting me. I went 3-for-4 that day. I owe a lot to Joe Torre, too, because he was a believer in people. He gave me the opportunity to play every day at third base. But it was the fans, most of all, that I'll always remember. They seemed to love an underdog which I guess I was. They also loved someone who gave his all which I know I did. They were truly a rare breed."

Steve Henderson . . . one of four regular players acquired from Cincinnati Reds in the Tom Seaver deal.

★ 1977 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 64-98, 6th
LEADING HITTER:
Lenny Randle, .304
LEADING PITCHER:
Nino Espinosa, 10-13
HOME RUN LEADER:
John Milner, 12
Steve Henderson, 12
John Stearns, 12
RBI LEADER:
Steve Henderson, 65
ERA LEADER:
Nino Espinosa, 3.42
SAVE LEADER:
Skip Lockwood, 20

1978

Transition Under Torre

The phasing out of the old guard nucleus of the Mets' '73 pennant-winning club continued in '78. On Dec. 8 of '77, Jon Matlack and John Milner joined Tom Seaver, Dave Kingman and Jerry Grote as ex-Mets when they were traded to the Texas Rangers for Willie Montanez, the flashy-fielding, power hitting first baseman. Then, in the spring of '78, Felix Millan was sold to the Taiyo Whales Japanese team and Bud Harrelson was dealt to the Phillies. Thus, with Milner, Millan and Harrelson all gone, Torre found himself putting together almost an entirely new infield in '78 with Montanez at first, Doug Flynn at second, Tim Foli (who had been re-acquired from the Giants on Dec. 7) at short and holdover Lenny Randle at third. And in the outfield, there was one major change with Elliott Maddox (who had been signed as a free agent) replacing Mike Vail (who was a major disappointment after his initial hitting splurge as a rookie) in right.

Joe Torre retired as an active player after the 1977 season and would stay at the helm of the Mets for the next four seasons.

Unfortunately, all of the new faces didn't quite measure up to all those who had departed. Montanez delivered at first, knocking in 96 runs and leading the NL in assists (104) and Pat Zachry, one of the four players from the Reds in the Seaver deal, turned in a respectable 10-6, 3.33 mark as the Mets' No. 4 starter. But Steve Henderson, regarded as the key to the Seaver deal from the Mets' standpoint, fell victim to the "sophomore jinx", hitting just .266 with just 65 RBI produced from left field. Maddox produced even less in right field (.257, 2 HR, 35 RBI) and Randle, after staging a brief spring training contract holdout, slumped from .304 to .233. It was not surprising then that the Mets finished 11th in the NL in batting (.245) and eighth in runs in Torre's first full season as skipper.

Hometown hero Lee Mazzilli led the Mets in batting with a .273 average in 1978.

Another major disappointment to Torre in '78 was veteran Jerry Koosman, the last of the once-vaunted Mets' pitching staff, who staggered to a 3-15 mark. The production void at the traditional "power corners"—rightfield, leftfield and third base—was simply killing. Equally as critical, was the collapse of the bullpen where the promising Bob Apodaca went down with a career-ending elbow injury in the spring and veteran Skip Lockwood slumped to 7-13 with five less saves (15) than the previous season.

Willie Montanez led the Mets with 17 homers and 96 RBIs.

It all added up to another last-place finish, 66-96, 24 games off the pace of the division-winning Phillies. It was painfully obvious to Torre that the transition would have to continue. There was, however, a promising nucleus from which to build around: catcher John Stearns hit 15 homers and knocked in 73 runs; center fielder Lee Mazzilli batted a team-high .273 with 16 homers and 61 RBI and righthander Craig Swan, the heir apparent to Seaver, won nine and led the NL in ERA (2.43).

★ 1978 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 66-96, 6th
LEADING HITTER:
Lee Mazzilli, .273
LEADING PITCHER:
Nino Espinosa, 11-15
HOME RUN LEADER:
Willie Montanez, 17
RBI LEADER:
Willie Montanez, 96
ERA LEADER:
Craig Swan, 2.43
SAVE LEADER:
Skip Lockwood, 15

Swan Song

1979

By the spring of 1979, nearly 3½ years after Joan Payson's death, it was apparent the Mets were a team that had lost its heart as well as its soul. Although she chose to stay in the background and leave the running of her ballclub to the professionals as George Weiss, Johnny Murphy, Gil Hodges etc., Joan Payson, ever the true sportswoman, spared no expense to keep the team competitive. Upon her death, however, her heirs and Board Chairman M. Donald Grant seemed to take a far more frugal and unsentimental approach to the running of the ballclub. It was primarily because of salary differences that popular and productive players such as Tom Seaver and Dave Kingman were moved out. And it was certainly because of a sudden emphasis of fiscal concern that Grant refused to indulge in the high stakes free agent wave which had produced a dramatic turnaround in fortune for the rival Yankees of George Steinbrenner.

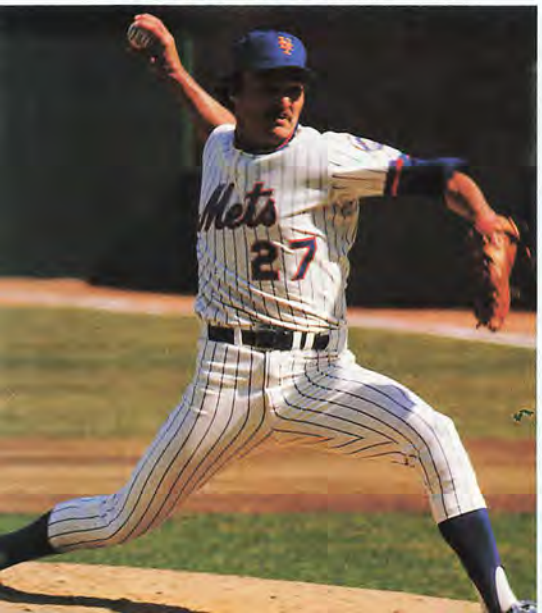
Indeed, while Steinbrenner was spending lavishly on free agents Catfish Hunter, Reggie Jackson and Goose Gossage, the Mets of the middle and late '70s were cutting their payroll, trading away their most popular players and losing big—both on the field and at the gate. As 1978 moved into '79, another Mets hero of bygone times, Jerry Koosman, was traded to the Minnesota Twins—at his request. In return, the Mets got a 21-year old pitcher named Jesse Orosco. And on Jan. 1, 1979, Mrs. Lorinda deRoulet, daughter of Mrs. Payson, replaced Grant as Mets' Board Chairman. The change at the top, however, did not represent a change in policy. Once again, the Mets stayed out of the free agent market and, despite their last-place finish in '78, made only a couple of token moves to improve the club. On March 27, Nino Espinosa, the club's top winner in both '77 (10) and '78 (11) was dealt to the Phillies for third baseman Richie Hebner. Three weeks later, Tim Foli was traded away again—this time to the Pirates—for Frank Taveras in an exchange of shortstops.

Joel Youngblood belted 16 homers in 1979.

In fact, the Hebner, Koosman and Taveras deals all worked out well for the Mets. Orosco would not pay his dividends for a few seasons, but Hebner temporarily solved the Mets' longstanding lack of punch at third base by producing 79 RBI, while Taveras provided some much-needed speed (44 stolen bases) as well as significantly more range at short than Foli. Perhaps the biggest plus of '79, though, was the continued blossoming of Craig Swan into one of the top pitchers in the National League. Assuming the role of Mets' ace, Swan was 14-13 with a 3.30 ERA. Still, the contributions of Swan, Hebner and Taveras were not nearly enough to overcome the unexpected decline of Willie Montanez and the crippling pitching injuries of Pat Zachry and Skip Lockwood. Montanez, the Mets' RBI leader in '78, never recovered from a spring training slump and was traded to Texas in August, while Zachry (10-6 in '78) was felled by an elbow injury in June and lost for the season. Lockwood, the team's relief ace in '77 and '78, went down with a shoulder injury in June. Mets manager Joe Torre was forced to juggle his pitching staff continuously among unproven youngsters Orosco, Neil Allen and Mike Scott and retreads Dale Murray, Dock Ellis, Andy Hassler and Pete Falcone. The pitching collapse more than anything else was what doomed Torre to another last-place finish, 63-99.

It was surely a low ebb for the Mets as evidenced by the only 788,905 paying customers that came to Shea in '79, the lowest attendance in the club's history. Mrs. Payson's once-grand and glorious National League franchise had fallen upon the hardest of times and, recognizing the sad and sorry state of the ballclub, her heirs announced they would listen to offers for it. On Oct. 22, 1979, Ed Kranepool, the last of the original Mets, declared his free agency and soon retired. A little less than three months later, Jan. 24, 1980, a group headed by publishing magnate Nelson Doubleday purchased the Mets from the Payson family for $21.1 million. An era had passed. A new one was about to begin.

Craig Swan led the club in wins in 1979.



★ 1979 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 63-99, 6th
LEADING HITTER:
Steve Henderson, .306
LEADING PITCHER:
Craig Swan, 14-13
HOME RUN LEADER:
Joel Youngblood, 16
RBI LEADER:
Lee Mazzilli, 79
ERA LEADER:
Craig Swan, 3.30
SAVE LEADER:
Skip Lockwood, 9

1980

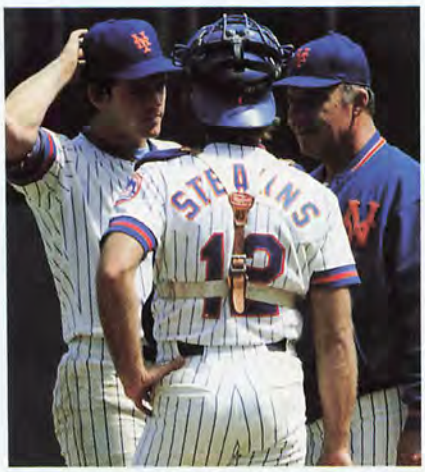
Dawn of a New Era

The sale of the Mets to publishing magnate Nelson Doubleday was greeted with considerable enthusiasm and anticipation by Met fans who had come to know only despair in the years following the death of Joan Payson, the team's matriarch. Doubleday and his other principle investor, Fred Wilpon, further fanned the flames of optimism by pledging to spare no expense toward revitalizing the franchise. Their first step in that regard was to woo former Baltimore Orioles' general manager Frank Cashen away from the Baseball Commissioner's office. Cashen was named general manager on Feb. 21, 1980 and given a free hand by Doubleday and Wilpon to rebuild the ballclub.

It was probably a far bigger challenge than Cashen realized, for he had inherited a club that was in near-total disrepair throughout the farm system as well as at the major league level. Cashen's first trade was to fill one of the many immediate voids. He obtained outfielder Claudell Washington from the Chicago White Sox on June 7 and Washington would go on to hit 10 homers and drive in 42 runs in the remaining 79 games. A far more significant decision on Cashen's part—as far as the longterm rebuilding process was concerned—was made four days earlier when an 18-year-old outfielder from Crenshaw High School in California was selected by the Mets as the No. 1 player in the June draft. His name was Darryl Strawberry.

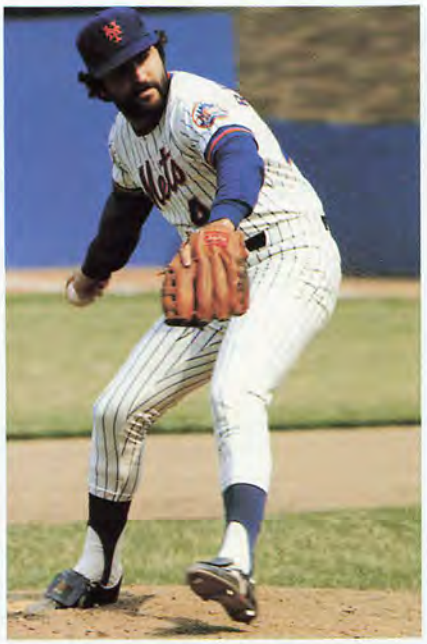
Shifted to first base by Torre, Lee Mazzilli led the Mets in games, at-bats, hits, runs, doubles, home runs, RBI and stolen bases in 1980.

Otherwise, the club that Joe Torre guided in 1980 was not all that much different from the one that had finished last in '79. The '80 club lost four less games (95) and climbed out of the cellar to fifth place. In Neil Allen (22 saves) and Jeff Reardon (61 appearances, 2.62 ERA), Torre was able to rebuild his bullpen with young products developed in the Mets' farm system. Lee Mazzilli, another home grown product continued to show great promise, leading the club in homers (16) and RBI (76) after being shifted from center field to first base by Torre.



Neil Allen would lead the club saves in 1980, 1981, and 1982, including a career high 22 in 1980.

If only all of the other key young Mets, in whom Torre had placed so much faith, had come through as well. Instead, the pitching staff that had so many years been the Mets' bastion of strength and stability once again collapsed like a house of cards on Torre. Swan, after being rewarded by the Doubleday people with the largest contract (5 years, $3.5 million) in Mets history during spring training, developed shoulder problems and won only five games. Similarly, Pat Zachry, counted on to be the No. 2 starter behind Swan, encountered elbow trouble in the spring, did not start his first game until May 18 and won only six. Two other extremely costly injuries were the fractured finger that finished catcher John Stearns on July 26 and the broken right wrist that sent Gold Glove second baseman Doug Flynn to the sidelines for good on Aug. 19.



Jeff Reardon . . .61 appearances in 1980.

To be sure, the injuries to Swan, Zachry, Stearns and Flynn served to undermine what looked to be a season of great progress and hope. The hope was manifested by the increase of nearly 400,000 in attendance from the season before. If nothing else, the Mets fans sensed that this was a new era and that the new ownership was trying.

★ 1980 METS AT A GLANCE ★

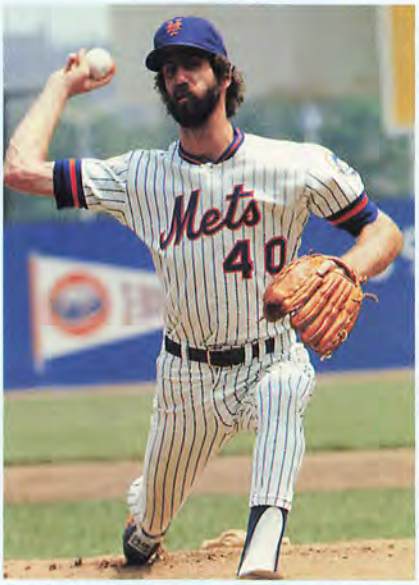
RECORD: 67-95, 5th
LEADING HITTER:
Steve Henderson, .290
LEADING PITCHER:
Mark Bomback, 10-8
HOME RUN LEADER:
Lee Mazzilli, 16
RBI LEADER:
Lee Mazzilli, 76
ERA LEADER:
Pat Zachry, 3.00
SAVE LEADER:
Neil Allen, 22

Comings and Goings

1981

Although he had developed himself a reputation for caution and conservative policies during his tenure in Baltimore, most Frank Cashen-watchers still expected the new Mets' head man would make a few dramatic moves while waiting for his farm system to begin bringing the franchise back to respectability. As a product of the Oriole organization which had always espoused the long ball, Cashen would freely admit "I like the big boppers." But the Mets' team he inherited in 1980 had none and, so, in spring training of 1981, Cashen made his first bold move on the trading front. He sent Steve Henderson, the key to the highly-unpopular Tom Seaver trade, to the Chicago Cubs in exchange for Dave Kingman. Although Henderson had performed more than capably as the Mets' leftfielder, hitting .306 in '79 and .290 in '80, Cashen saw Kingman as a player who could serve a dual purpose of providing much-needed power as well as box office appeal. Critics of the deal could not help reminding that the Mets were now trading away the principal player in the Seaver deal to re-acquire Kingman, who had been traded away on that same tumultuous night in '77 as Seaver.

Meanwhile, Torre and his pitching coach, Bob Gibson, urged Cashen to promote rookie righthander Tim Leary (who had turned in sensational pitching performances all spring) to the major league roster instead of sending him back for more seasoning. But in Leary's first start, on the third day of the season, his elbow stiffened up in the cold Chicago weather and he left the game in the third inning never to pitch again that season.



Pat Zachry. . . winningest pitcher in strike-shortened season.

Besides Leary, Torre had also counted on a return to form from Craig Swan as a key toward restoring the fallen pitching staff. But Swan's recovery from a slight rotator cuff tear in his shoulder was slow and, shortly after he did return, three weeks into the season, he was the victim of another freak injury when catcher Ron Hodges hit him in the ribs attempting to throw out a runner at second. Swan suffered a fractured rib and was lost for another season. Another big disappointment to Torre was veteran lefthander Randy Jones, who battled his control all season and had to be dropped from the rotation in the final six weeks.

Once again betrayed by their pitching, the Mets started poorly and were 17-34 when the players went on strike in June. It was only when Torre made some wide-scale defensive changes—moving Lee Mazzilli from center field to left, Kingman from left to first base, Mookie Wilson from right to center and installing Joel Youngblood in right—that the Mets began to play better. By then, however, Torre's fate was all but sealed. Although 1981 did produce some promising signs—Hubie Brooks' .307 at third base, Neil Allen's 18 saves in the bullpen, Kingman's 22 homers and 59 RBI in 100 games—the final 41-62 fifth-place record left Cashen little choice but to execute more sweeping changes for '82. The first to go was Torre, who was fired on the final day of the season along with all his coaches. On Oct. 20, Cashen, once again reaching back to his Baltimore roots, named George Bamberger, architect of the strong Orioles pitching staffs of the '60s and early '70s, as the new Mets manager.

In his first full season in the majors, Mookie Wilson (No. 1) batted .271 with 24 stolen bases.

★ 1981 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 41-62, 5th
LEADING HITTER:
Hubie Brooks, .307
LEADING PITCHER:
Pat Zachry, 7-14
HOME RUN LEADER:
Dave Kingman, 22
RBI LEADER:
Dave Kingman, 59
ERA LEADER:
Mike Scott, 3.90
SAVE LEADER:
Neil Allen, 18

1982

By George!

For six long seasons, when free agency changed the entire complexion of baseball, Mets' fans looked on in despair as other clubs—especially the other club in New York—made all the dramatic signings and, for the most part, improved themselves considerably in the process. This was the period, 1975-80, when so many of baseball's biggest names, franchise players such Reggie Jackson, Catfish Hunter, Pete Rose, Nolan Ryan, Don Baylor, Rollie Fingers, Goose Gossage, moved to more lucrative surroundings via the vehicle of free agency. When Nelson Doubleday and Fred Wilpon took control of the Mets in January of 1980, however, they pledged to spend whatever it would take to restore the franchise to contending status. The promise was kept in the early days of 1982. The Cincinnati Reds, having embarked on a policy of trading away selected high-salaried stars before losing them through free agency, let it be known that their slugging left-fielder, George Foster, was available for trade. Foster, the 1977 National League Most Valuable Player, had averaged 110 RBI per year over the previous six seasons for the Reds. But to acquire him, meant more than just satisfying the Reds. The Mets had to satisfy Foster as well—which they did with a five-year contract that reportedly would make him the highest paid player in baseball. The deal was completed with the Mets sending pitchers Jim Kern and Greg Foster and catcher Alex Trevino to the Reds.

After blockbuster deal with Reds, George Foster—along with Dave Kingman, gave Mets potential back-to-back 100-RBI sluggers.

Acquired from Minnesota for Jerry Koosman, Jesse Orosco developed into club's premier reliever in 1982.

The Foster deal was completed on Feb. 10 and, along with Dave Kingman, the Mets suddenly had the presence of two bonafide 35-homer, 100-RBI sluggers in the middle of their lineup for the first time in their history. This also enabled Cashen to execute another trade that, while initially unpopular, proved pivotal toward rebuilding the pitching staff. On April 1, Cashen swapped longtime Mets' favorite Lee Mazzilli to the Texas Rangers in exchange for two highly-regarded young pitching prospects, Ron Darling and Walt Terrell. It was, to be sure, a spring training replete with optimism and anticipation as the Mets came home to open the season with a new manager, George Bamberger, some promising new faces on their pitching staff and a new superstar, George Foster.

What happened to quell all that anticipation and optimism was something Bamberger and Mets general manager Frank Cashen could not have envisioned: another near-total collapse of the pitching staff. Bamberger, an acknowledged master of pitching technology and mechanics, was able to successfully nurse Craig Swan back from his partially-torn rotator cuff injury after two lost seasons. Swan was 11-7 with a 3.35 ERA in '82 and re-established himself as the Mets' titular mound leader. But the rest of the rotation Bamberger had put together in those anxious days of spring—Pete Falcone, Randy Jones, Pat Zachry and Mike Scott—were a combined 28-42.

Still, by late June, Bamberger had the Mets four games over .500 (34-30) and seemingly in line to make a decent run for it. Then, the final and most decisive blow to Bamberger's pitching: Relief ace Neil Allen (who already had 15 saves to that point) was felled by a serious colon infection. With Allen no longer available to lend his considerable support to the shaky starting rotation, the Mets lost 15 games in a row and fell into last place—where they finished, 65-97. Kingman led the league in homers with 37 and also had 99 RBI, but Foster had difficulties adjusting to his change of teams and contributed only 13 homers and 70 RBI. Said a disappointed Bamberger at season's end: "There's no doubt in my mind Allen would have saved 35 games if we'd have had him all year. And I know we wouldn't have lost 15 games in a row. The two worst things that happened to us were Allen getting sick and Foster having an off-year."

★ 1982 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 65-97, 6th
LEADING HITTER:
Mookie Wilson, .279
LEADING PITCHER:
Craig Swan, 11-7
HOME RUN LEADER:
Dave Kingman, 37
RBI LEADER:
Dave Kingman, 99
ERA LEADER:
Craig Swan, 3.35
SAVE LEADER:
Neil Allen, 19

Tom Returns, Keith Arrives

1983

On the surface, the 1983 season, in which the Mets finished last again and lost another manager in the process, was not one to be particularly savored by the faithful Shea fans. And yet, in terms of what it wrought in the immediate seasons to come, 1983 can rightfully be looked upon as a season in which the Mets finally turned the corner. Actually, the corner was turned on one momentous night—June 15. By now, Mets fans become accustomed to having their emotions jolted on the traditional trading deadline. After all, it was on June 15 that Tom Seaver and Dave Kingman were both dealt away in 1977. On June 15 of '83, however, Mets general manager Frank Cashen sent shockwaves of glee through Shea Stadium and the city of New York when he announced he had acquired Keith Hernandez from the Cardinals in exchange for reliever Neil Allen. Hernandez, of course, was a perennial .300, 95-100 RBI hitter, a Gold Glove first baseman and a former National League Most Valuable Player. Even more important, as far as the Mets faithful were concerned, he was just reaching his prime at age 29.

The acquisition of Hernandez came 12 days too late for George Bamberger, however. Bambi, still bitterly disappointed over the collapse of his pitching the year before, resigned as manager on June 3. At the time, the Mets were 16-30 and in last place. As Bamberger explained it: "I just couldn't take the losing any more. I know this club is gonna be good, and not that far off either, but I'm just not willing to go through any more rebuilding." Cashen had had to coax Bamberger into returning as manager for a second season and, most certainly, a major factor in Bambi's decision to stay at the helm was the acquisition of two proven veteran starting pitchers, Tom Seaver and Mike Torrez, to shore up the broken down rotation.

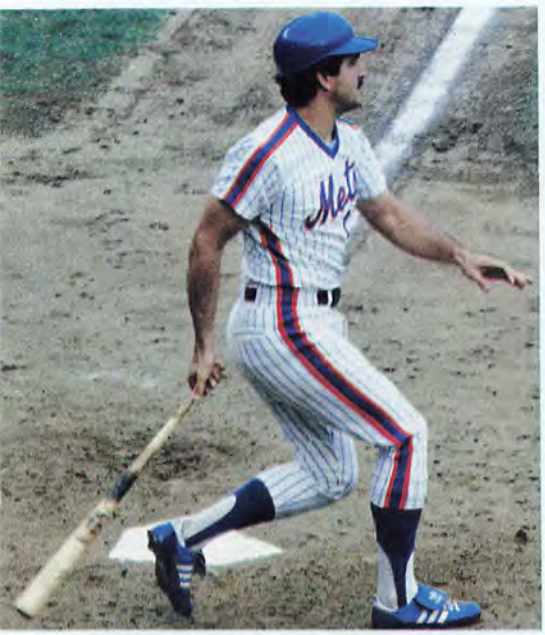
Seaver's 5½ year exile from New York was ended by Cashen on Dec. 16, 1982 in a deal that sent righthander Charlie Puleo and two minor leaguers to the Reds. Then on Jan. 13, Torrez was acquired from the Red Sox for infielder Mike Davis. In addition to Seaver and Torrez, Bamberger had sought to rebuild the rotation with rookies Rick Ownbey and Scott Holman. In the end, though, it was just Seaver (9-14, no missed starts, 3.55 ERA) and Torrez (10-17, 222⅓ innings) who delivered and that wasn't enough.

Recalled from Tidewater on May 4, Darryl Strawberry went on to win N.L. Rookie-of-the-Year honors.

When coach Frank Howard took over from Bamberger as interim manager in June, it was already painfully obvious another pitching overhaul would have to be made by next season. However, the offense, long the Mets' primary source of vulnerability, was beginning to command some genuine respect. It began, of course, with the Hernandez trade. On May 4, the decision was made to recall outfielder Darryl Strawberry from Tidewater. Strawberry, the much-ballyhooed No. 1 draft choice in 1980, started slowly, but more than lived up to his press clippings by season's end. His 26 homers, 74 RBI, 19 stolen bases earned him Rookie of the Year honors. And with Hernandez and Strawberry to share the burden of carrying the offense, George Foster rebounded from his disappointing first season at Shea to crack 28 homers and knock in 90 runs. Yet another encouraging sign was the emergence of lefthander Jesse Orosco as the new Met relief ace. Stepping in for the departed Allen, Orosco won 13, saved 17 and had a 1.47 ERA.

Had Bamberger been able to foresee all these sudden positive developments, he might have stayed awhile longer. Instead, the man by whom the Mets would be guided in 1984 was yet another expatriot from the Baltimore Orioles. On Oct. 13, 1983, Cashen named former Orioles second baseman Davey Johnson as Mets manager.

The Mets acquired perennial All-Star first baseman Keith Hernandez from the Cardinals at the trading deadline in '83.



★ 1983 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 68-94, 6th
LEADING HITTER:
Mookie Wilson, .276
LEADING PITCHER:
Jesse Orosco, 13-7
HOME RUN LEADER:
George Foster, 28
RBI LEADER:
George Foster, 90
ERA LEADER:
Tom Seaver, 3.55
SAVE LEADER:
Jesse Orosco, 17

1984

Davey, Darryl and Doc

Davey Johnson knew something. That was apparent from the day he was named to manage the Mets for 1984. While most of the newsmen and outside observers were pointing to the Mets' recent record of two straight last-place finishes and five trips to the cellar in the last seven years, Johnson merely smiled. "This team," Johnson said, "is ready to win. You're going to see a winning ballclub in 1984."

That was on Oct. 13, 1983. Then, on Jan. 20 of '84, Johnson was stripped of his No. 1 pitcher when the Chicago White Sox shocked the Mets and most of baseball as well by selecting Tom Seaver out of the list of unprotected players in the free agent compensation pool. No one will ever know how far the Mets might have gone with Seaver on their staff in '84, but the fact was, Davey Johnson had a plan to go with youth and WIN with youth. As manager of the Mets' Tidewater farm in '83, Johnson was familiar with the minor league system that GM Frank Cashen had been carefully cultivating through shrewd drafting and trading over a period of four years. Johnson knew about 23-year-old Ron Darling, who had been 10-9 for him at Tidewater in '83. And he knew about Wally Backman, a scruffy, hell-bent-for-leather second baseman who, despite being found lacking by previous Mets administrations, batted .316 at Tidewater in '83 and demonstrated to his manager he was big league. Above all, though, Johnson knew about this 19-year-old righthander who had pitched at Lynchburg, two levels below Tidewater, in 1983. Dwight Gooden, you see, had pitched for Johnson a couple of weeks at Kingsport in 1982 when Johnson was filling in for the Mets' manager there. And at the tail-end of '83, Johnson made certain to have Gooden promoted from Lynchburg to Tidewater for the International League playoffs. So Davey Johnson knew Dwight Gooden. And, while he could not come right out and say it that day in October when he took over the Mets manager, Johnson knew that Gooden was going to be pitching for him at Shea Stadium in 1984.

Thus, when the Mets arrived at spring training in 1984 and so much of the talk was still centered around the White Sox' steal of Seaver, Johnson remained unconcerned and largely non-committal on his pitching. In his mind, however, he had it formulated: Gooden, Darling, Walt Terrell, Ed Lynch and, down the road, Sid Fernandez, the chunky lefthander with the gaudy minor league stats who the Mets acquired in an off-season deal from the Dodgers. The "kiddie korps" pitching staff began to take further shape early on when veterans Mike Torrez, Craig Swan and Dick Tidrow all drew their releases and 29-year-old righthander Bruce Berenyi was obtained in a deal with the Reds on June 15.

Meanwhile, Johnson was fully aware that his lineup, fortified with the additions of Darryl Strawberry and Keith Hernandez midway through '83, was no longer a cream puff one. Sure, there were still some offensive weak spots at catcher and shortstop, but with the platoon of Backman and Kelvin Chapman at second, the continued offensive improvement of Hubie Brooks at third and Mookie Wilson in center, plus the big three of Strawberry, Hernandez and George Foster, Johnson knew he had a team capable of scoring runs. Which they did. Strawberry followed up his Rookie of the Year season by hitting 26 homers and driving in 97; Hernandez had 94 RBI; Foster had 24 homers and 86 RBI; Brooks had 16 homers and 73 RBI and later, at Johnson's behest, made a successful switch from third to short in order to further improve the offense.

The pitching? Gooden was merely sensational, going 17-9 with a 2.60 ERA and a league-leading 276 strikouts to win Rookie of the Year honors; Darling was 12-9, Terrell 11-12, Berenyi 9-6 and Jesse Orosco, backing them all up, was 10-6 with a club record 31 saves out of the bullpen. The end result was a 90-72 record and a strong place finish. It came as a surprise to just about everyone but Davey Johnson.

Hubie Brooks made a remarkable switch from third base to shortstop in 1984 and also had best season at the plate with 16 homers and 73 RBI.

Darryl Strawberry outdid his Rookie-of-the-Year season in 1984 with 26 homers and 97 RBI.

★ 1984 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 90-72, 2nd
LEADING HITTER:
Keith Hernandez, .311
LEADING PITCHER:
Dwight Gooden, 17-9
HOME RUN LEADER:
Darryl Strawberry, 26
RBI LEADER:
Darryl Strawberry, 97
ERA LEADER:
Dwight Gooden, 2.60
SAVE LEADER:
Jesse Orosco, 31

One Step Closer

1985

The exhilaration from this 1984 season had barely subsided for Mets fans when Frank Cashen swung into action once again and delivered an early Christmas present to them. On Dec. 10, Cashen, in his boldest trade yet, sent a parcel of four players, including popular and productive shortstop Hubie Brooks, to the Montreal Expos in exchange for Gary Carter, recognized as the top catcher in the game. In Cashen's mind, the last piece to the puzzle was now in place. With Carter joining Darryl Strawberry and Cashen's other two celebrated trade acquisitions, George Foster and Keith Hernandez, the Mets now had an offense to rival any in baseball. And with Ron Darling ready to join Dwight Gooden, Sid Fernandez, Bruce Berenyi and Ed Lynch in the Mets' starting rotation, the pitching appeared in good shape for years to come.

It was easy to see why Cashen and Mets manager Davey Johnson were thinking pennant when the '85 season opened. Quite probably they would have been proven correct in that assessment too had it not been for one disastrous unforeseen development. The '85 season began with a bit of adversity when, on April 24, Berenyi went down with a partially torn rotator cuff in his right shoulder, forcing Johnson to re-vamp his starting rotation before the first month of the season was even over. Still, by May 11, Johnson had the Mets in first place by one game with an 18-8 mark. On that date, it happened: Strawberry, diving for a line drive in right field, tore the ligaments in his thumb and was lost to the team for seven weeks. During that stretch, the Mets were 20-23 to drop from first to third place, 3½ games behind. Inasmuch as they wound up second, three behind the pennant-winning St. Louis Cardinals, there can be made a reasonable argument that Cashen and Johnson would have had their pennant had Strawberry not been lost for such a long period of time.

As it was, Strawberry wound up with 29 homers and 79 RBI for just 111 games. And Carter, despite suffering a painful knee injury at mid-season, hit .281 with 32 homers and 100 RBI. In one phenomenal two-game stretch in San Diego in early September, Carter smashed five home runs. It was that west coast trip, punctuated by Hernandez' dramatic two-run ninth-inning pinch homer against the Gaints in San Francisco Sept. 1, that kept the Mets in the pennant chase. They closed out the trip 8-3 to return home just two games out of first.

Of course, in assessing what kept the Mets in the race, it is difficult to put any one player or event over the overall achievements of Gooden, the wunderkind righthander who was the unanimous Cy Young Award winner. For, if any player most dominated the 1985 season it was Gooden, who won the rare triple crown of pitching by leading the NL in wins (24-4), ERA (1.53) and Strikeouts (286) and finished fourth in the Most Valuable Player balloting. On Aug. 25, the 20-year-old Gooden beat the Padres, 9-3, to become the youngest 20-game winner in modern history. Five days earlier, he struck out 16 Giants in one of the most electrifying games ever at Shea.

Although, in retrospect, the Mets' season may have been decided in that 20-23 stretch they played without Strawberry, in fact it was settled Oct. 3 in St. Louis. The Mets were three games behind the Cardinals coming into that crucial three-game series. In the opener, Strawberry's 11th inning homer of lefthander Ken Dayley lifted the Mets to a 1-0 win. The next night, Gooden beat the Cards 5-2 to bring the Mets to within one game of first. Then, in the final game, the Cards rallied for the only win they really needed to nail down the pennant, beating Rick Aguilera, 4-3. Two days later, an 8-3 loss to the Expos officially eliminated the Mets, but they finished with their second best record ever, 98-64, and the first 25 years of their existence had ended on one of the club's all-time highs.

Acquired in a four-for-one deal with Montreal, Gary Carter led the club with 32 homers and 100 RBI in 1985.

★ 1985 METS AT A GLANCE ★

RECORD: 98-64, 2nd
LEADING HITTER:
Keith Hernandez, .309
LEADING PITCHER:
Dwight Gooden, 24-4
HOME RUN LEADER:
Gary Carter, 32
RBI LEADER:
Gary Carter, 100
ERA LEADER:
Dwight Gooden, 1.53
SAVE LEADER:
Jesse Orosco, 17
Roger McDowell, 17

★★★★★★★★★★★ Casey and Gil ★★★★★★★★★★★

Each of them shared a special place in the annals of New York baseball history before the Mets had even been born. Casey Stengel was beloved first by Brooklyn Dodger fans of the "Daffiness ERA", 1912-17. He was among the daffiest of them all, a personality trait that served to overshadow an otherwise productive career as an outfielder (.284 for 14 years). Later he would achieve a deserved esteem from New Yorkers and fans everywhere for his 10 pennants in 12 years as manager of the Yankees. Gil Hodges was equally beloved and respected by the baseball fans of New York, though his personality was practically on the opposite side of the spectrum as Stengel's.

They were vastly different men, Stengel warm and gregarious; Hodges quiet and aloof. They came together briefly in 1962 when Stengel, as the first manager of the Mets, selected Hodges in the expansion pool to be his first baseman. By then, though, Hodges was well past his prime as a player. It was as a player that Hodges, despite his quiet nature, captured the hearts of Brooklyn. He drove in 100 or more runs in seven straight seasons (1949-55) for the Dodgers and, upon retirement in 1963, had amassed 370 homers and 1,274 RBI in a career that spanned 18 seasons. It was during the 1952 World Series, when

Casey Stengel

Gil Hodges

he was mired in a desperate 0-for-21 slump, that Hodges was accorded the prayers of the Brooklyn fans. From the pulpit of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, a parish other than Hodges', Father Raymond implored his flock to "keep the Commandments and say a prayer for Gil Hodges."

Their tenures as Met managers contrasted greatly, too, although the impact of both on the franchise was immeasurable. Stengel gave the Mets character, color and their human-ness. Without him, they might have been just another dismal expansion team of castoffs and unskilled neophytes. With him, those castoffs and neophytes became the most lovable losers in baseball history. His putdowns of his team ("I been in this game 100 years but I see new ways to lose I never knew existed before") were greeted with genuine sympathy and delight alike by the fans who flocked in truly "amazin' " numbers to the old Polo Grounds and later to Shea Stadium those awful early years. Once, in a cab-ride in St. Louis, Stengel, accompanied by a group of writers, was asked by the cabbie: "Are you fellas players?" "No," Stengel replied, "and neither are my players players."

But by the time Hodges had returned to the Mets as manager in 1967, the players were beginning to play like the sort of players Stengel had been accustomed to in his successful reign as Yankee manager. Under Hodges, the Mets grew up and learned how to win, capturing it all in their miracle season of 1969. His style of managing was not much different from his style of playing: quiet, unassuming but intense. It was because he kept so much of that intensity boiled up inside him that, those who knew him reasoned, he paid the price inside. He suffered a warning heart attack in 1968 at age 44. Four years later, a second attack was fatal. It was Frank Howard, the one-time Dodger teammate of Hodges who later played for him with the Washington Senators, who summed up the quiet man's impact on others best. Said Howard: "Gil was a tough guy to play for. We had our differences, but he was fair. I have three sons. If they grow up to be one half the man Gil Hodges is, I'll be happy."

In Memoriam

Joan Whitney Payson (1903-1975)
Owner, 1962-75
George M. Weiss (1895-1972)
President, 1962-66
Johnny Murphy (1908-1970)
General Manager, 1967-1970
Bob Scheffing (1915-1985)
General Manager, 1970-1974
Casey Stengel (1890-1975)
Manager, 1962-1965
Gil Hodges (1924-1972)
Manager, 1968-1972
Rogers Hornsby (1896-1963)
Coach, 1962
Red Kress (1907-1962)
Coach, 1962
Red Ruffing (1904-1986)
Coach, 1962
Ernie White (1916-1974)
Coach, 1963
Clyde McCullough (1917-1982)
Coach, 1963
Ken Boyer (1931-1982)
Third Base, 1966-1967
Danny Frisella (1946-1977)
Pitcher, 1967-1972
Grover Powell (1940-1985)
Pitcher, 1963

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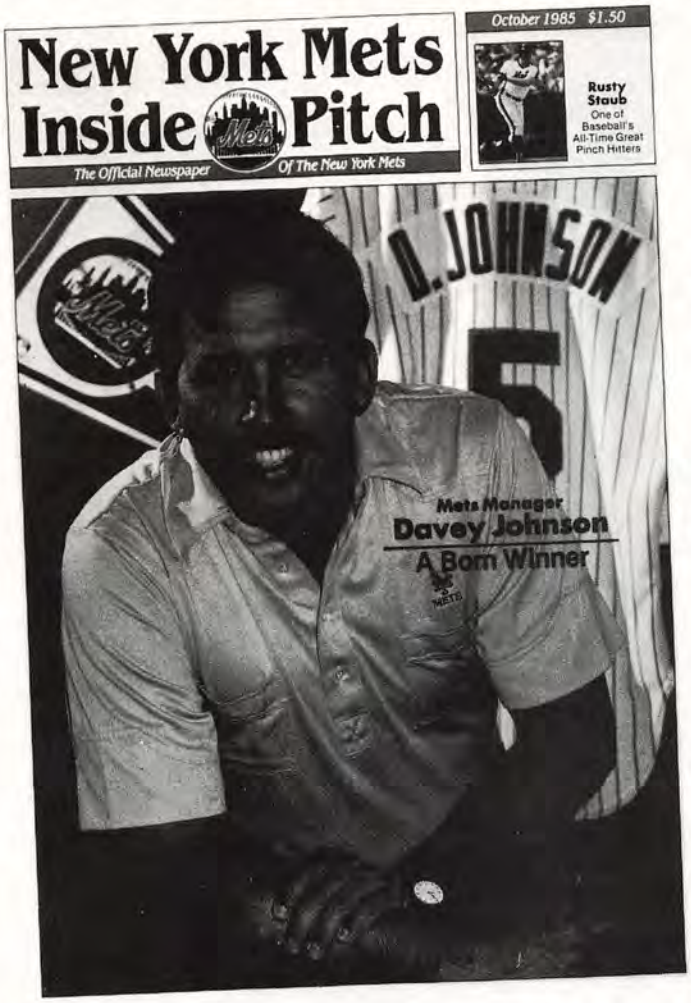

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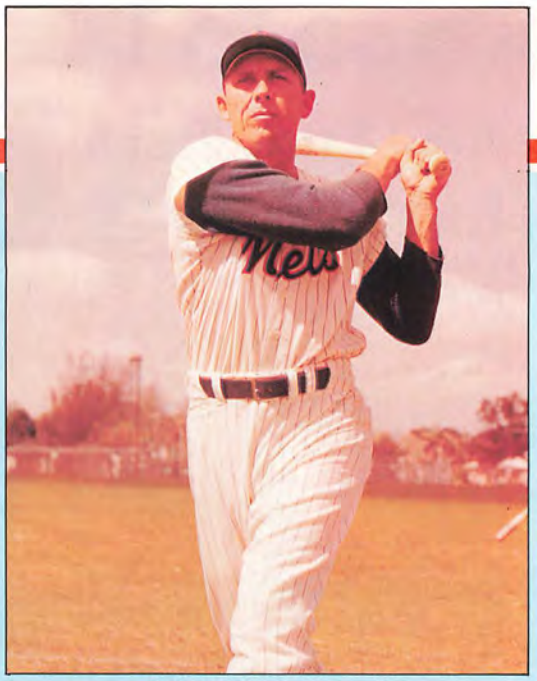
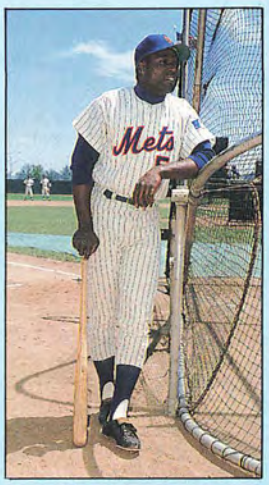
Doug Flynn 1977-81



Gil Hodges 1962-63

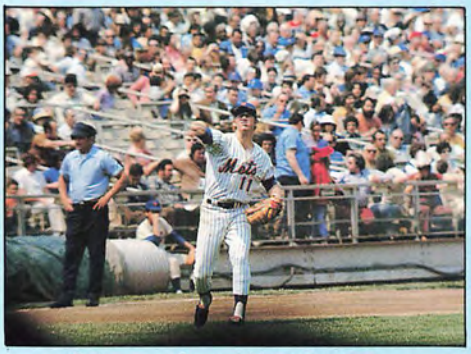


Ed Charles 1967-69

John Milner 1971-77

Bob Bailor 1981-83

Roy McMillan 1964-66



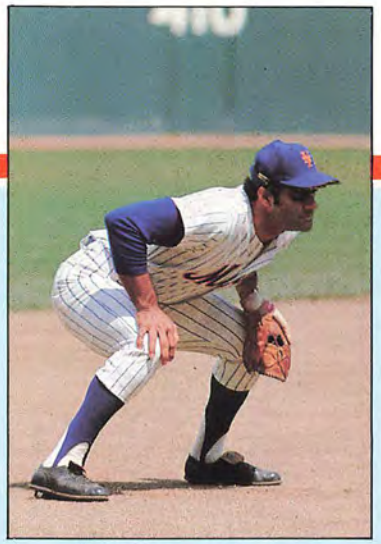
Wayne Garrett 1969-76

Hubie Brooks 1980-84

Ron Hunt 1963-66

Ed Kranepool 1962-79

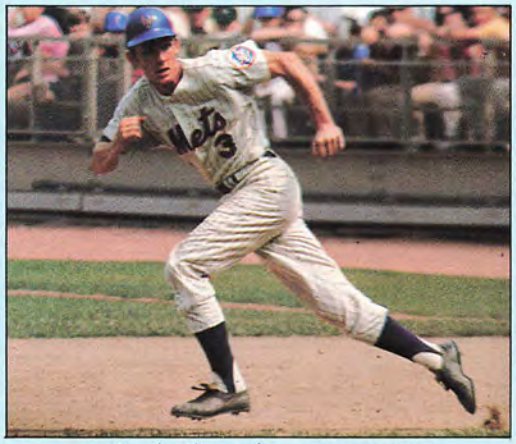
INFIELDERS



Joe Torre 1975-77

Felix Millan 1973-77

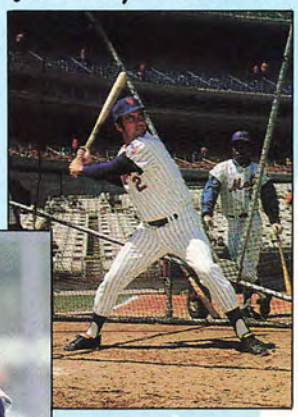
Ken Boswell 1967-74



Bud Harrelson 1965-77

Lenny Randle 1977-78

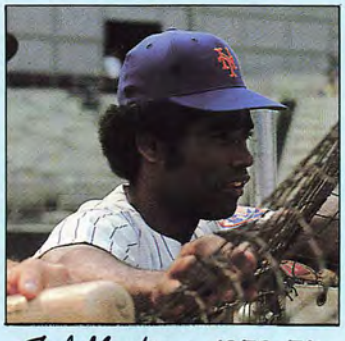
Jim Fregosi 1972-73



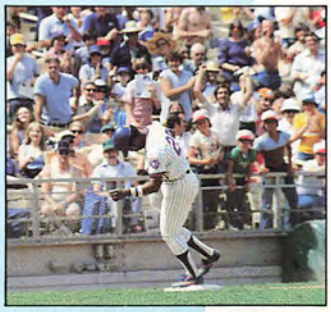
Donn Clendenon 1969-71

Frank Taveras 1979-81

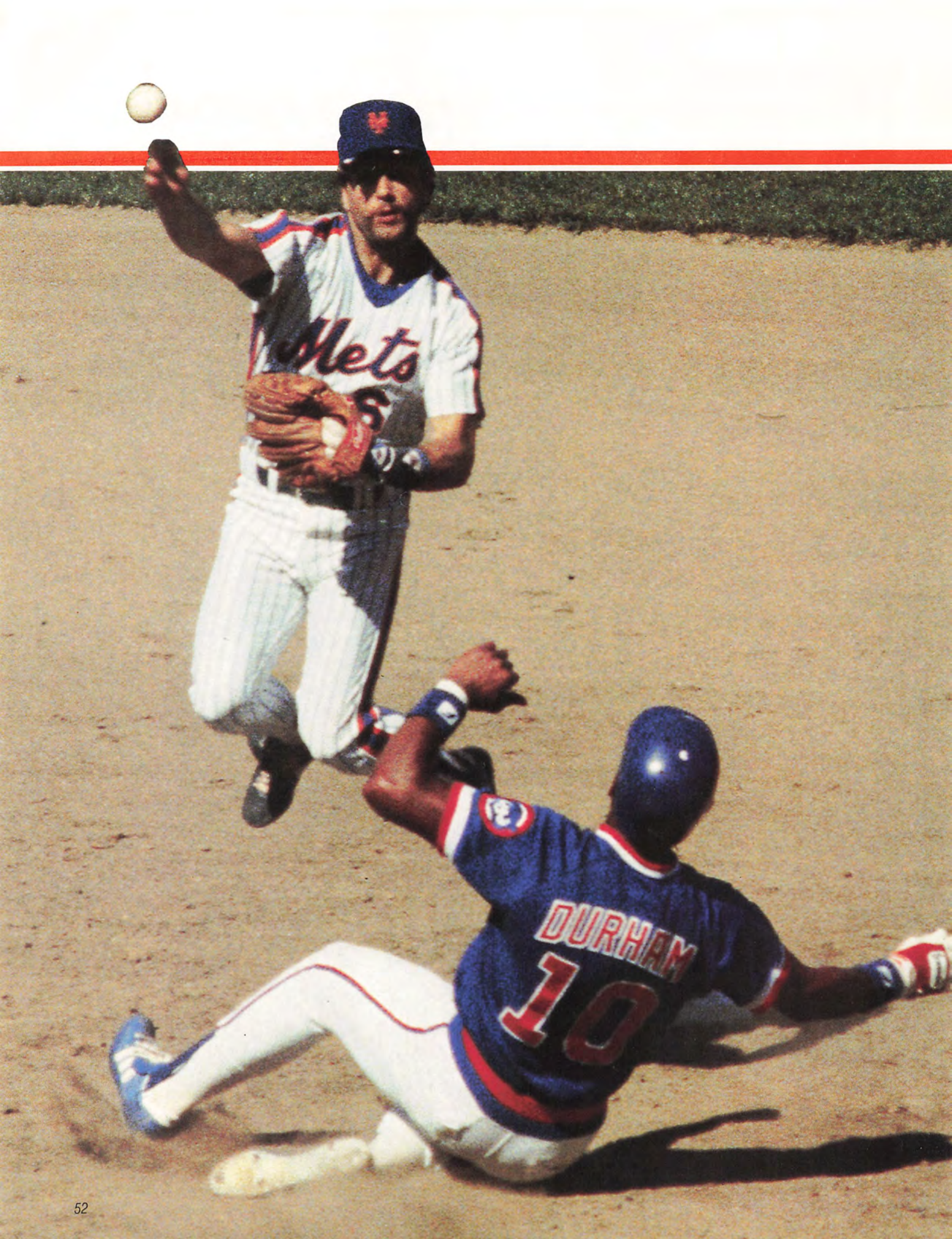
Richie Hebner 1979



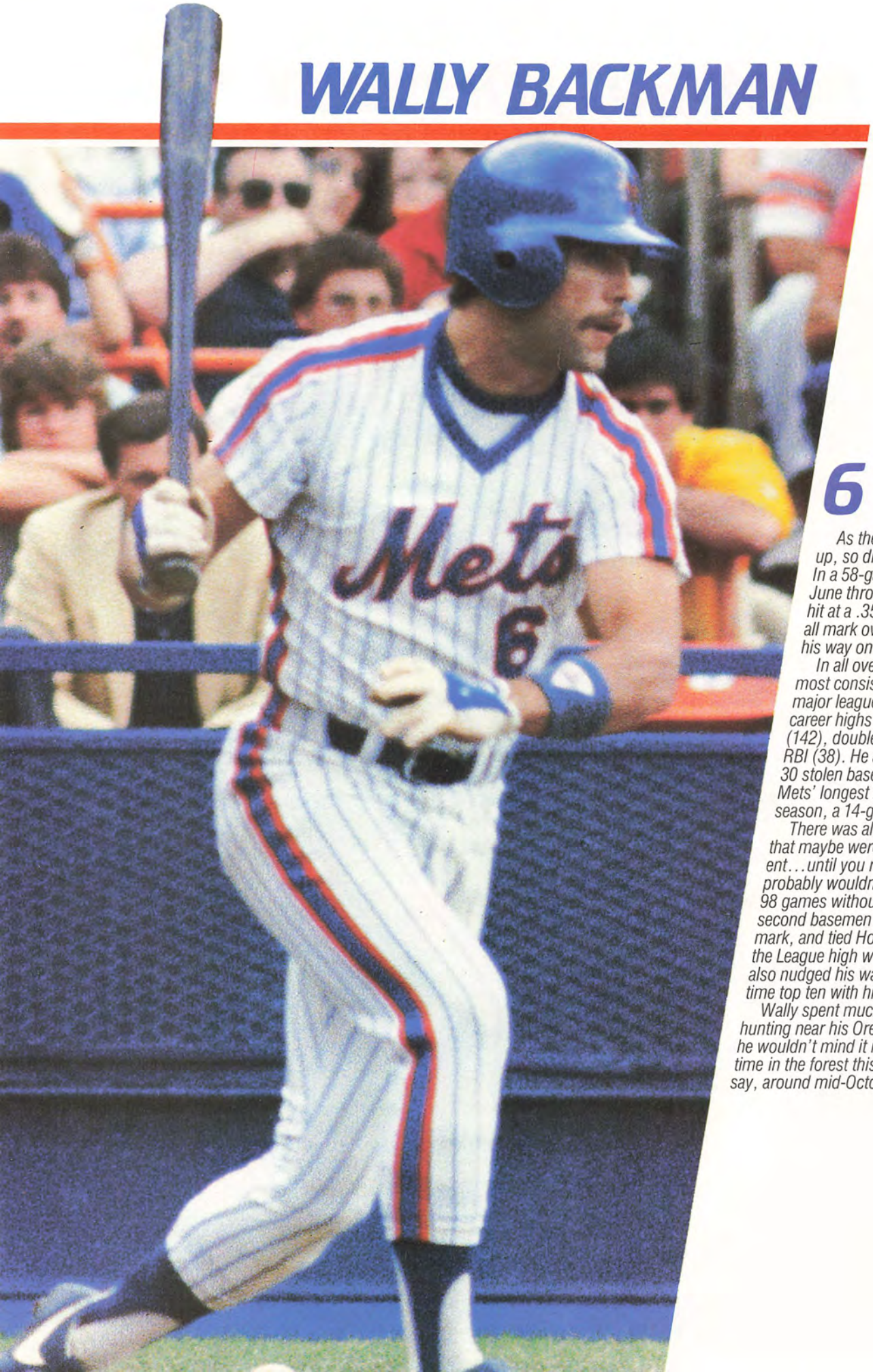
Ted Martinez 1970-74



Willie Montanez 1978-79


Mets
DURHAM
10

WALLY BACKMAN



6

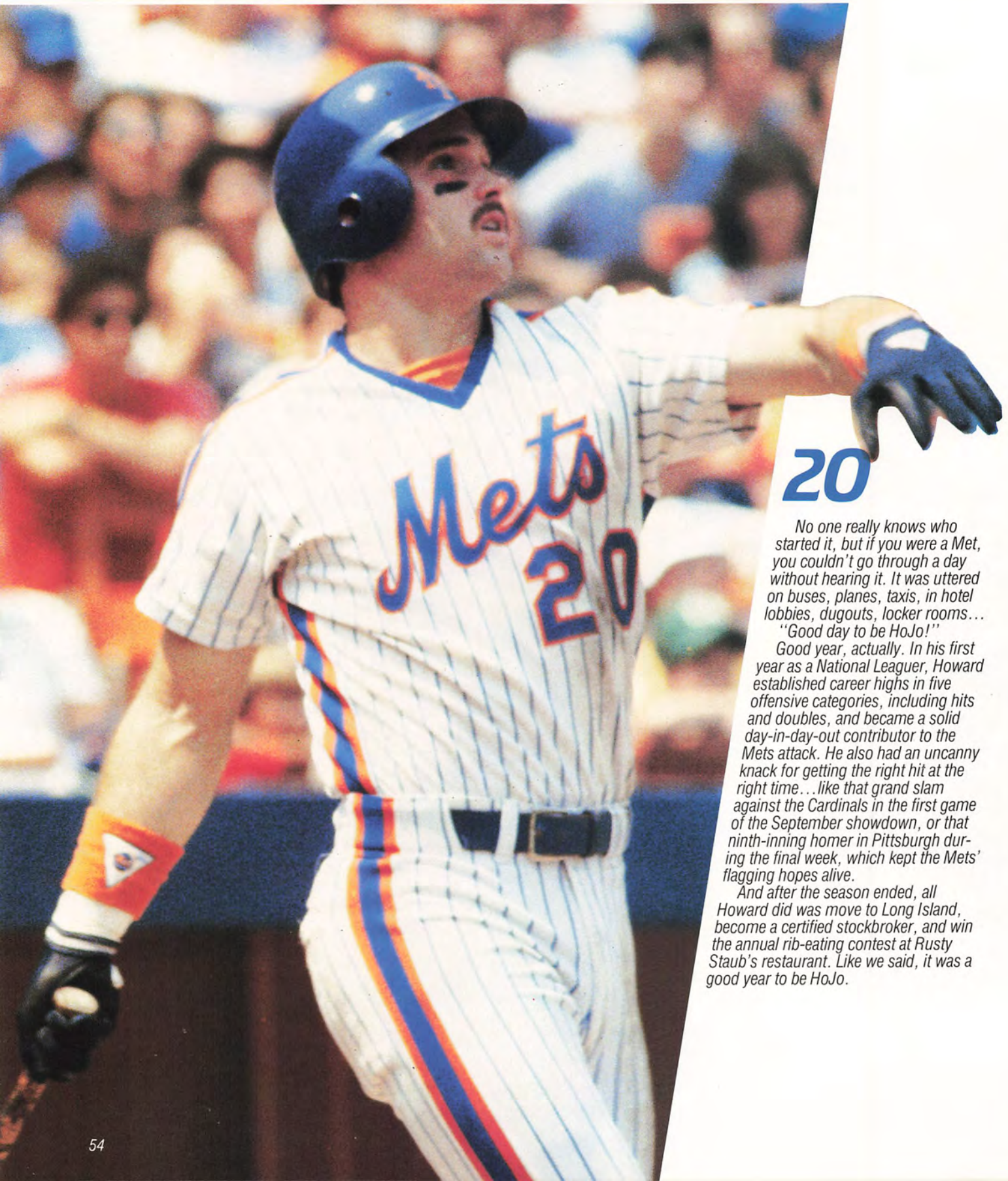
As the summer of '85 heated up, so did Wally Backman's bat. In a 58-game span from mid-June through mid-August, Wally hit at a .356 clip to bring his overall mark over .300, as he elbowed his way onto the NL leaders chart.

In all over the course of his most consistent season in the major leagues, Wally established career highs in games (145), hits (142), doubles (24), triples (5) and RBI (38). He also led the club with 30 stolen bases, and owned the Mets' longest hitting streak of the season, a 14-gamer in early August.

There was also some contributions that maybe weren't readily apparent...until you realize that the Mets probably wouldn't have been able to win 98 games without them. Wally led all NL second basemen with a .989 fielding mark, and tied Houston's Nolan Ryan for the League high with 14 sacrifice hits. He also nudged his way into the Mets' all-time top ten with his .275 lifetime average.

Wally spent much of the off-season hunting near his Oregon home. This year, he wouldn't mind it if he spent a little less time in the forest this autumn. Especially, say, around mid-October.

HOWARD JOHNSON



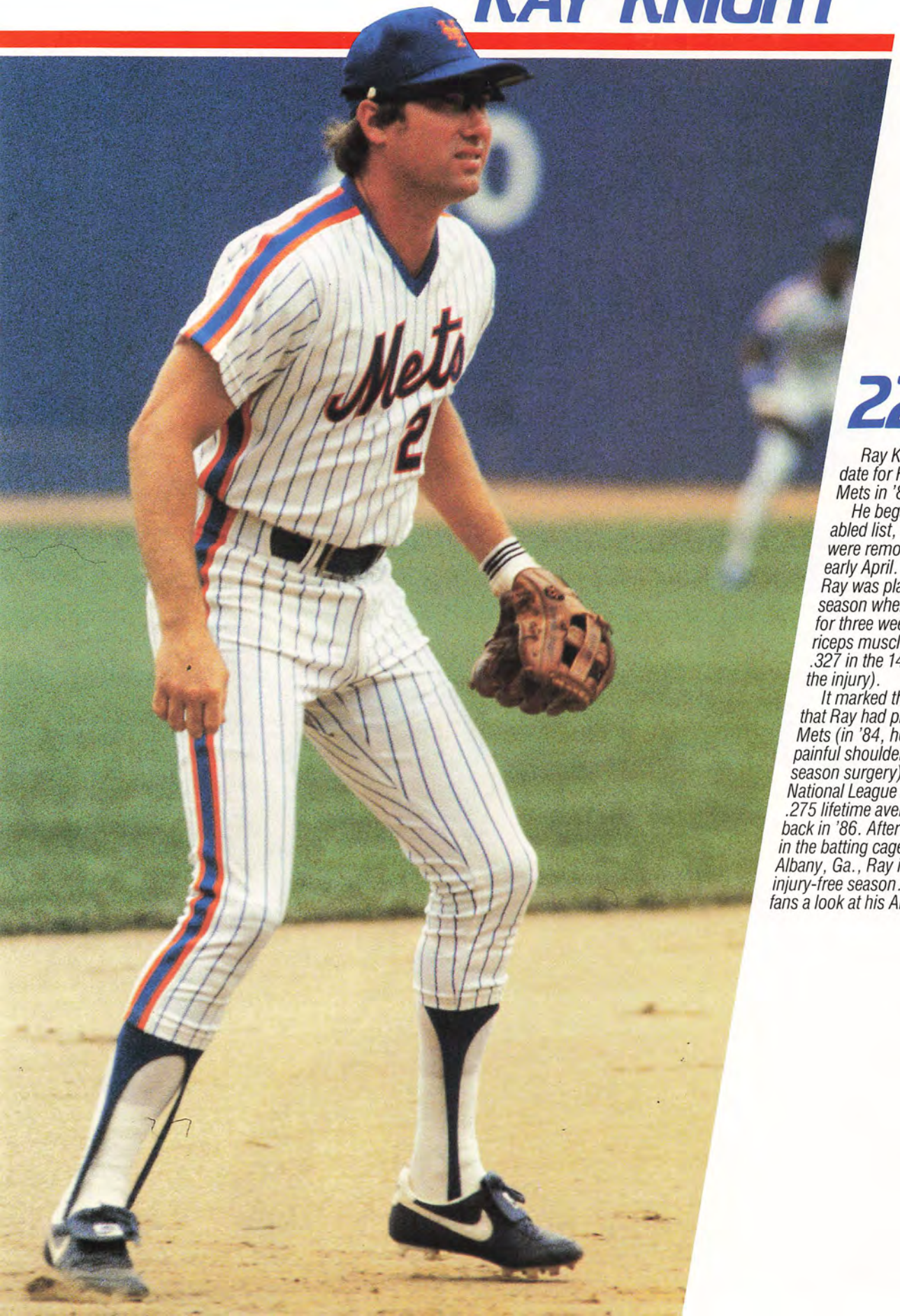
20

No one really knows who started it, but if you were a Met, you couldn't go through a day without hearing it. It was uttered on buses, planes, taxis, in hotel lobbies, dugouts, locker rooms… "Good day to be HoJo!"

Good year, actually. In his first year as a National Leaguer, Howard established career highs in five offensive categories, including hits and doubles, and became a solid day-in-day-out contributor to the Mets attack. He also had an uncanny knack for getting the right hit at the right time… like that grand slam against the Cardinals in the first game of the September showdown, or that ninth-inning homer in Pittsburgh during the final week, which kept the Mets' flagging hopes alive.

And after the season ended, all Howard did was move to Long Island, become a certified stockbroker, and win the annual rib-eating contest at Rusty Staub's restaurant. Like we said, it was a good year to be HoJo.

RAY KNIGHT



22

Ray Knight was a sure candidate for Hard Luck King of the Mets in '85.

He began the year on the disabled list, as three bone chips were removed from his elbow in early April. Then, later in the year, Ray was playing his best ball of the season when he was struck down for three weeks after pulling a quadriceps muscle in July (he was hitting .327 in the 14 games just prior to the injury).

It marked the second straight year that Ray had played in pain with the Mets (in '84, he was hindered by a painful shoulder that required post-season surgery). But the two-time National League All-Star, the owner of a .275 lifetime average, is thinking comeback in '86. After working out all winter in the batting cage he built in his home in Albany, Ga., Ray is looking forward to an injury-free season...and to give Shea fans a look at his All-Star form.

RON GARDENHIRE

19

For the record, Ron Gardenhire did not have a little black raincloud hovering over his head during the 1985 season. It only seemed that way.

His '85 itinerary reads like this: May 3–Disabled list, strained right hamstring, out for two weeks; May 25–Disabled list, pulled right hamstring; July 19–Activated and optioned to Tidewater; July 29–Recalled by the Mets; August 16–Disabled list, pulled right groin…

Gardy managed to play in only 26 games for the Mets, as he was beset by injuries for the second year in a row. It was a cruel blow to a guy who's become a Shea favorite with his determination and hustle.

So, once again this year, Gardy finds himself in a battle for a spot on Davey's lineup card, and he's determined to stay away from that old injury jinx. All that time on the sidelines last year gave Ron more chances to track down ex-ballplayers to sign his Baseball Encyclopedia. He and the Mets wouldn't mind it a bit if his collecting time went down and his playing time went up accordingly in 1986.

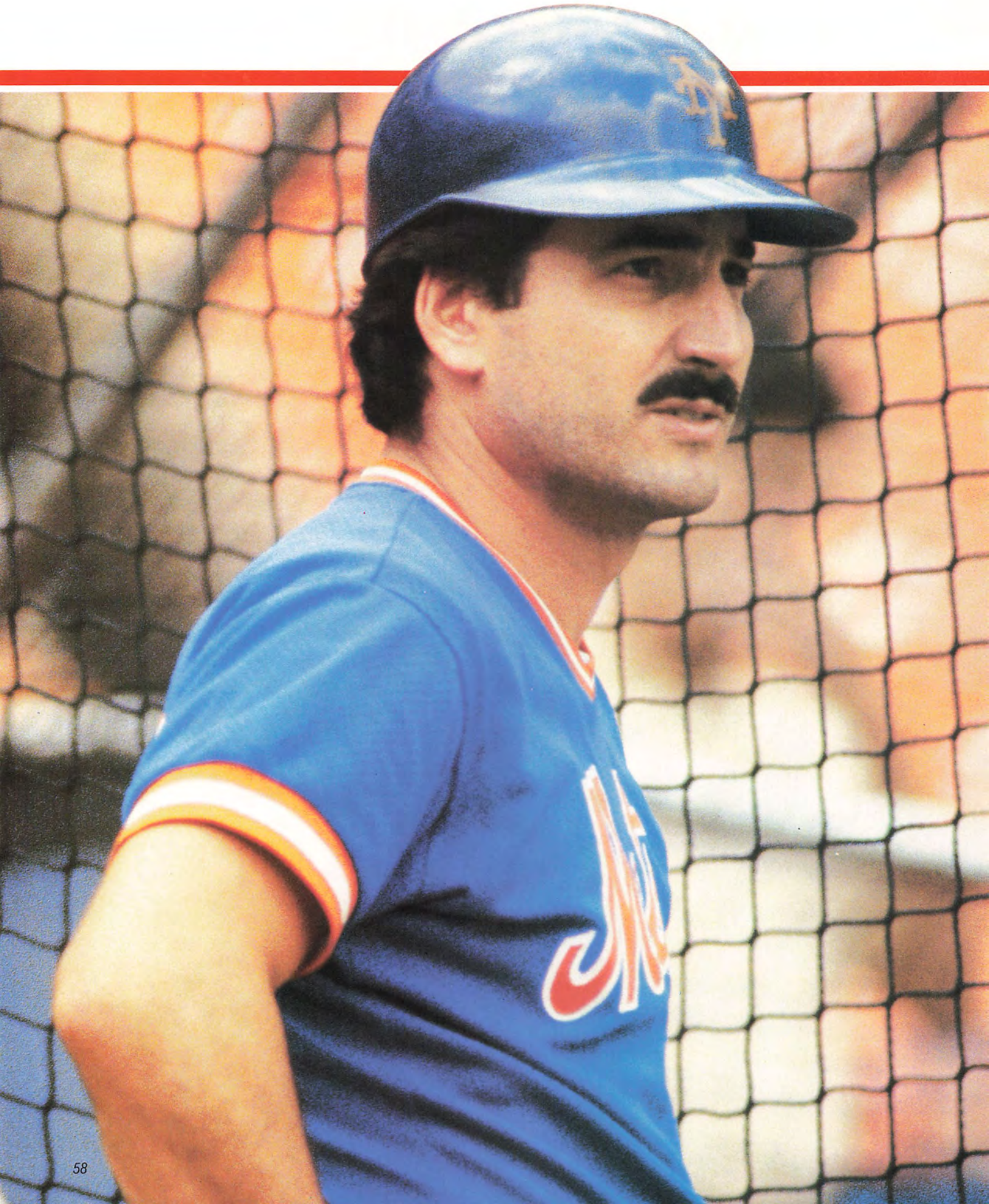
RAFAEL SANTANA

3

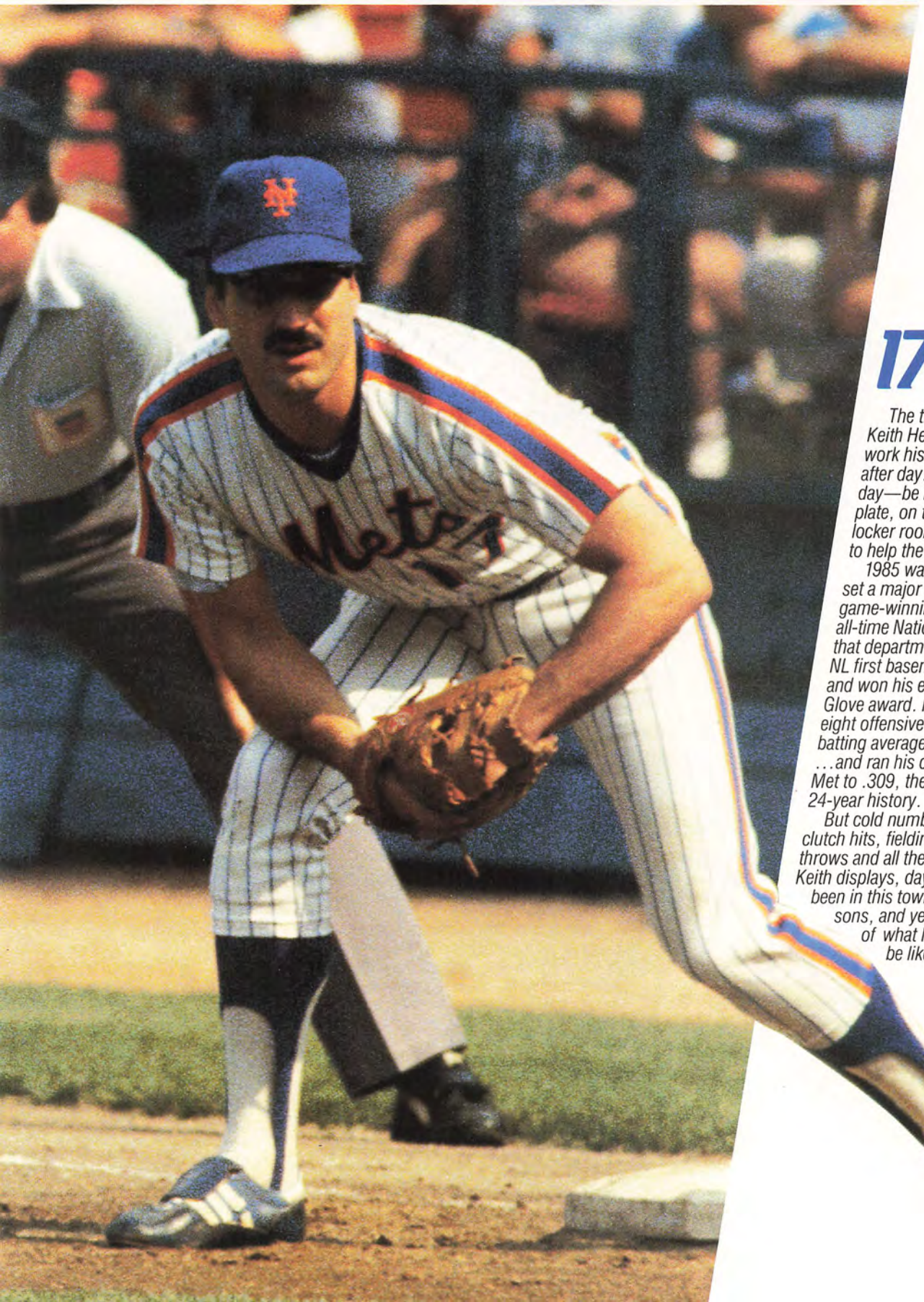
Surprise! When the Mets signed a free agent with just 30 games-worth of major league experience back in January of '84, little did they know he'd become their regular shortstop only seven months later.

Rafael Santana earned the starting job in July of 1984, and hasn't let go. Last season, he played in 153 games at shortstop, the most for a Met since 1979. He led all NL shortstops with 301 putouts, and helped with the bat with a pair of eight-game hitting streaks and a .280 spurt in 66 games (June 21-September 6).

It's been a long road for Rafael–three organizations in nine years as a professional–but it looks like Shea Stadium will be his home for a long time to come.



KEITH HERNANDEZ

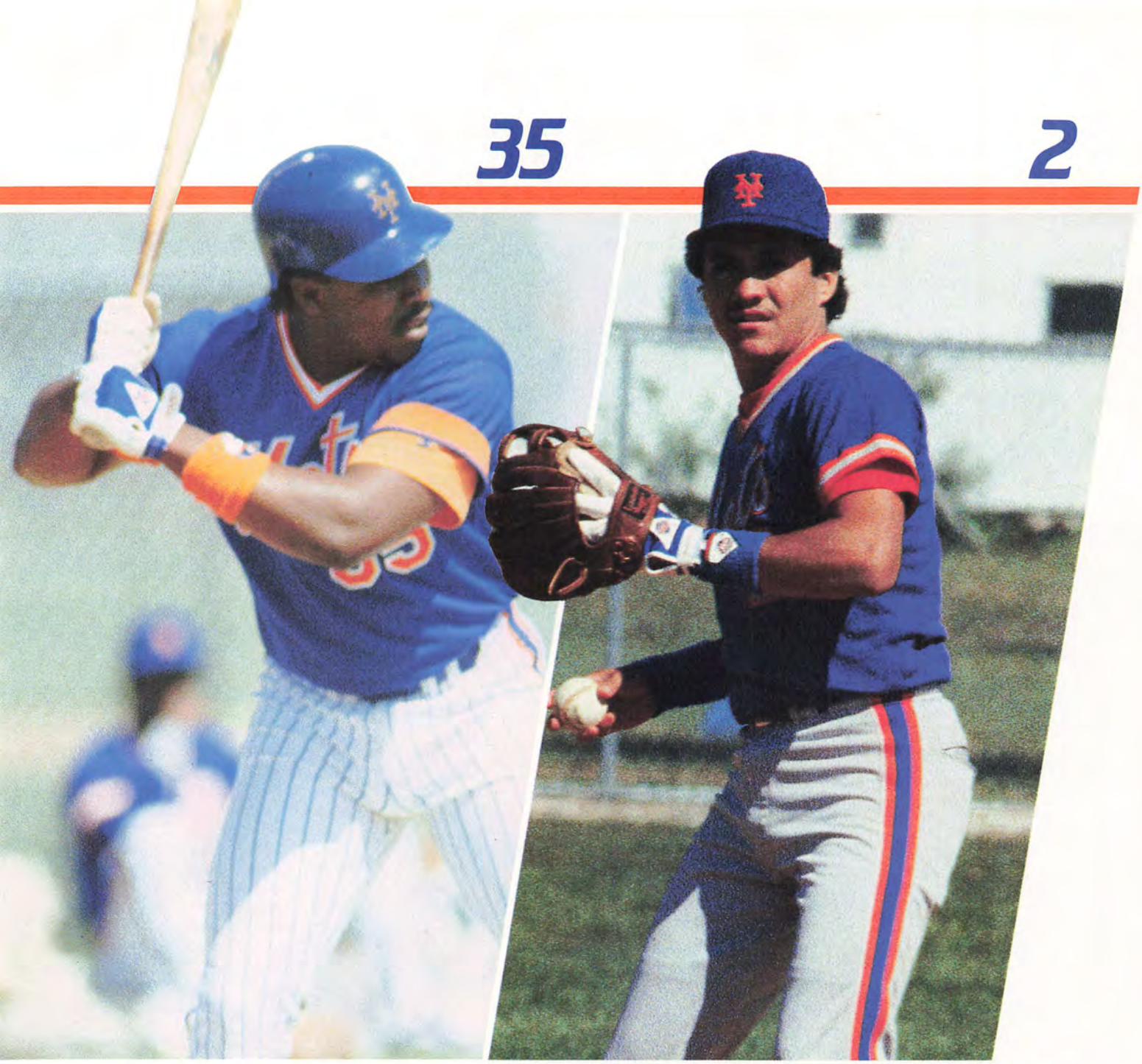


17

The true beauty surrounding Keith Hernandez is to watch him work his magic day after day after day. Because every single day—be it on the field, at the plate, on the bench or in the locker room—he does something to help the Mets win.

1985 was no exception. Keith set a major league record with 24 game-winning RBI, becoming the all-time National League leader in that department with 94. He led all NL first basemen in fielding average, and won his eighth straight Gold Glove award. He also led the Mets in eight offensive categories, including batting average (.309) and hits (183) . . . and ran his career average as a Met to .309, the highest in the club's 24-year history.

But cold numbers pale beside the clutch hits, fielding gems, rally-killing throws and all the other weapons that Keith displays, day after day. He has only been in this town for two-and-a-half seasons, and yet it is impossible to think of what life around Shea would be like without him.



35

2

KEVIN MITCHELL

Kevin finished ninth in the International League in '85 with a .290 average, 47 points better than his mark of the year before. In the playoffs, he batted .281 with three homers and seven RBI to lead the Tides to the League championship.

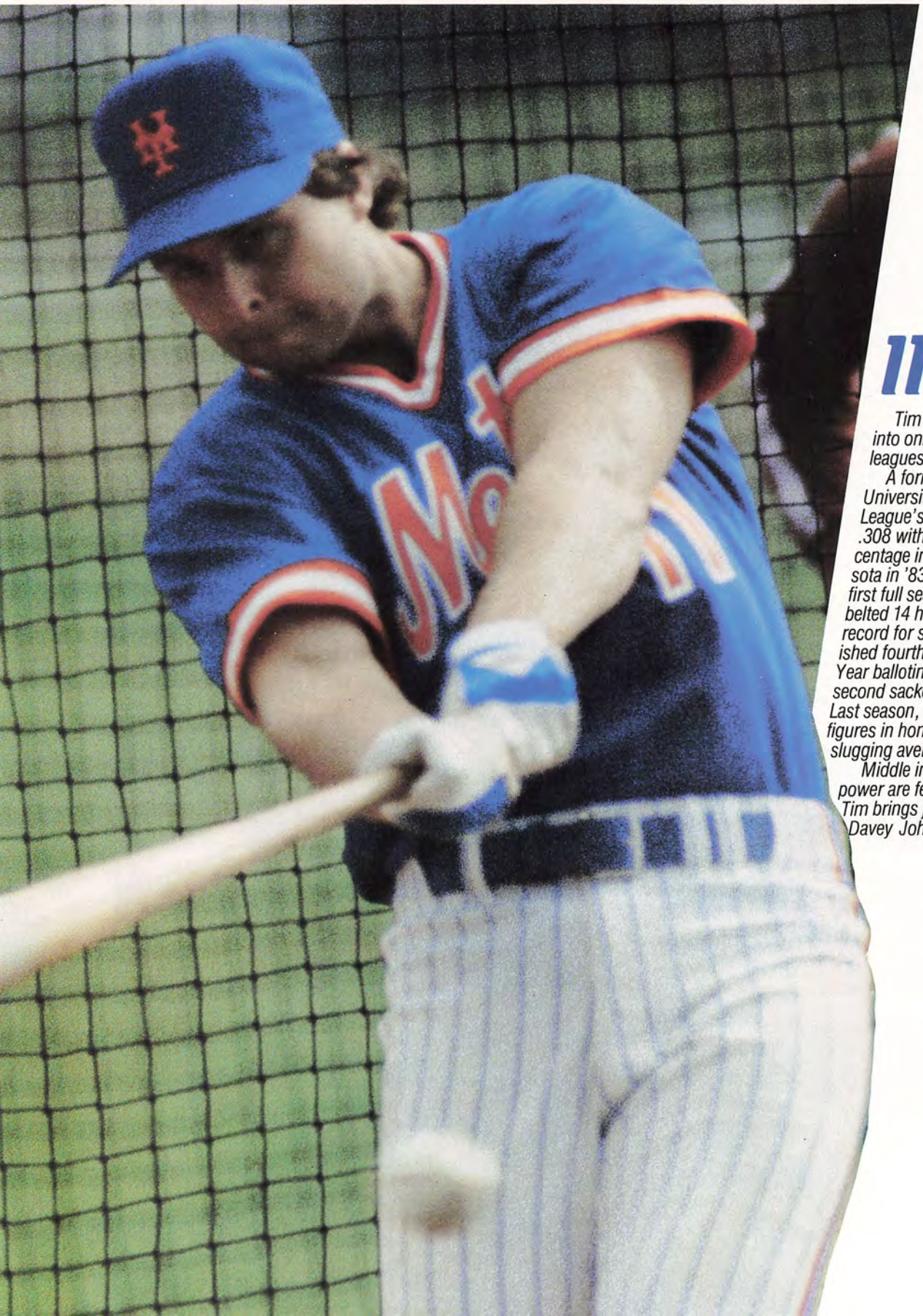
But the game he'll probably never forget would be the regular season finale, when he went 4-for-5 as the Tides nailed down a playoff berth with a 7-6 win over Richmond. Kevin, who had a brief stay with the Mets in 1984, would like to perform under that same kind of pressure in New York this year.

ARGENIS SALAZAR

Argenis' season at Tidewater last year was curtailed by two trips to the disabled list (sprained left ankle, wrenched back). But when he returned to the lineup for good in early July, he was more than ready. In a 27-game July span, he hit a lusty .424, including an eight-game hitting streak.

A native Venezuelan who patterned his play after countryman Dave Concepcion, Argenis spent time with Montreal in both 1983 and 1984. He was acquired by the Mets' organization from St. Louis at the tail end of spring training in '85.

TIM TEUFEL



11

Tim Teufel has squeezed a lot into only 2½ years in the big leagues.

A former star at Clemson University and the International League's MVP in 1983, Tim hit .308 with a .538 slugging percentage in a brief stay with Minnesota in '83. The following year, his first full season in the majors, Tim belted 14 homers (a Twins' club record for second basemen), finished fourth in the AL Rookie of the Year balloting, and led the League's second sackers in games and assists. Last season, he again reached double figures in homers and posted a .399 slugging average.

Middle infielders with home run power are few and far between. But Tim brings just that to the Mets, and Davey Johnson couldn't be happier.

27

65

TIM CORCORAN

At the beginning of spring training, the Mets made a move to bolster their lefthanded hitting by signing free agent first baseman Tim Corcoran.

The owner of a .271 lifetime major league average, Tim hit .341 for the Phillies in 1984, and has hit over .280 three times. Tim had a rough go of it last year with Philadelphia, but the Mets are confident he can rebound in '86.

DAVE MAGADAN

Dave Magadan has been a .300-plus hitter in each of his three professional seasons. Last year at Jackson, he hit .309, led the Texas League with 106 walks and finished third in on-base percentage (.441)...all of which earned him a spot on the Mid-Season All-Star team.

A former star at Alabama University, Dave won the 1983 Golden Spikes Award as the nation's top amateur player. He's also the cousin and godson of Yankee manager Lou Piniella. As the Mets are finding out firsthand, good hitting runs in the family.

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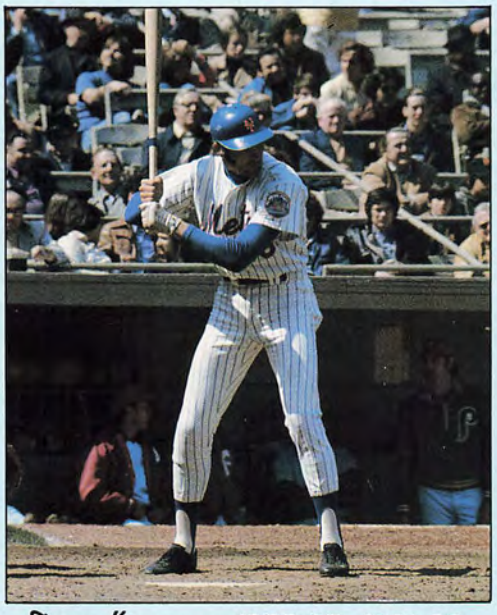
Willie Mays 1972-73

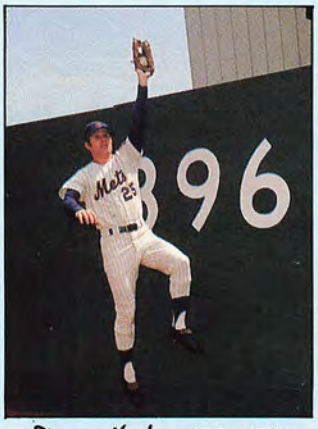
Frank Thomas 1962-64

Joel Youngblood 1977-82

Steve Henderson 1977-80

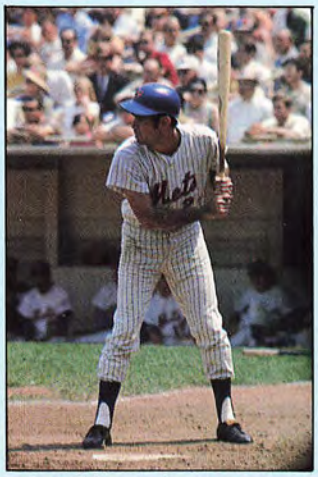


Dave Kingman 1975-77, 1981-83



Don Hahn 1971-74

Don Bosch 1967-68



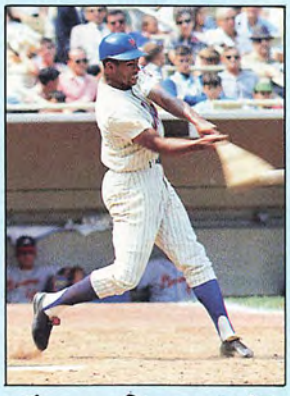
Art Shamsky 1968-71

Bruce Boisclair 1974-79

Tommie Agee 1968-72 and Cleon Jones 1963, 1965-75

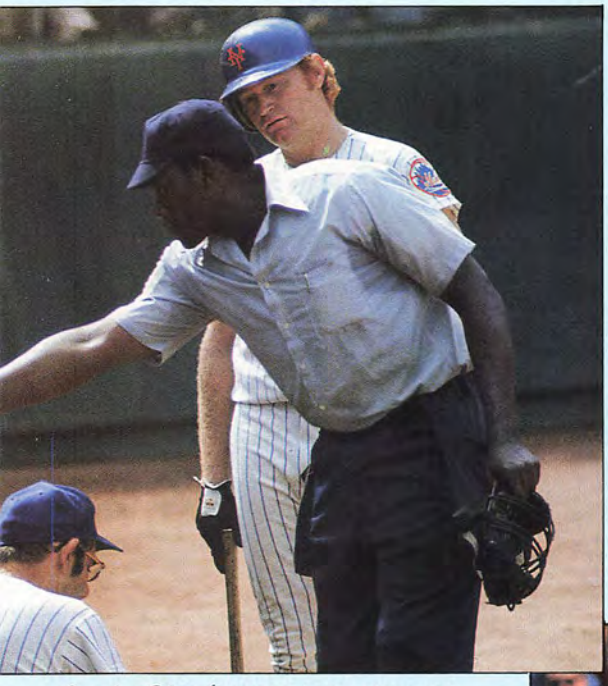
OUTFIELDERS

Lee Mazzilli 1976-81



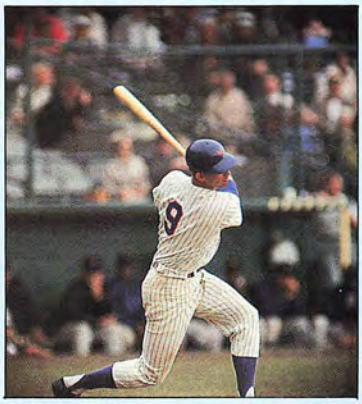
Tommy Davis 1967

George Theodore 1973-74

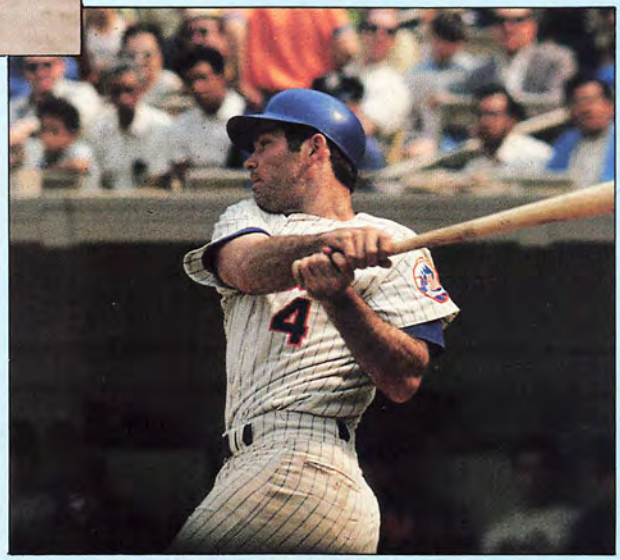


Rusty Staub 1972-75, 1981-85

Joe Christopher 1962-65



Jim Hickman 1962-66



Ron Swoboda 1965-70

18

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

18

It was the most haunting moment of the 1985 season. A sinking liner to right off the bat of Philly's Juan Samuel. Darryl Strawberry dove, made the catch, and went down. And stayed down.

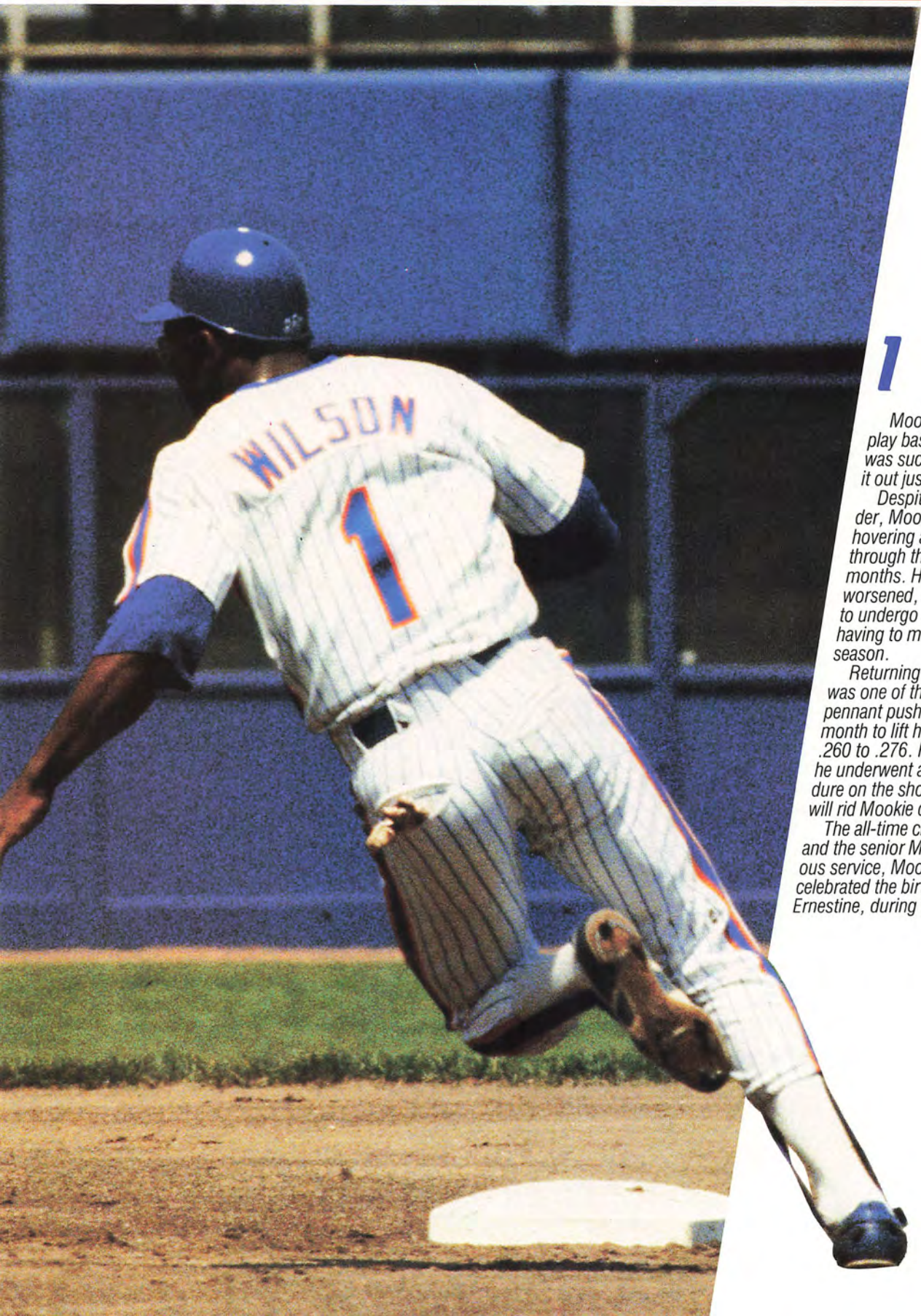
The result was a torn ligament of the right thumb, which would keep Darryl sidelined from that mid-May afternoon until the last week of June. For seven weeks, Darryl sat, and sat, and waited. And when he came back, he was ready, Oh, was he ready.

He cracked 21 homers and 60 RBI in the season's second half, batting .291 in that span. And some of those shots were unforgettable…like the three in one game at Chicago on August 5, or that monster blast off the scoreboard in St. Louis on October 1, which gave the Mets a 1-0, 11-inning win and kept their pennant hopes alive.

When the dust had cleared, Darryl had a total of 29 homers (breaking his own club record for lefties), a career high .277 average and a sizzling .557 slugging percentage. He was an NL All-Star for the second year in a row, and his 14 homers at Shea meant donations totalling $10,500 to New York City public schools through the Strawberry Homer Program. But the most telling numbers of all are probably 60-33. That's the Mets' record after Darryl returned to the lineup last year. Any wonder why Darryl can't wait for '86?

Mets
1

MOOKIE WILSON



1

Mookie Wilson just loves to play baseball. That's why 1985 was such a hard season. Sitting it out just isn't Mookie's style.

Despite a painful right shoulder, Mookie got off to a fine start, hovering around the .300 mark through the season's first two months. However, the shoulder worsened, and Mookie was forced to undergo surgery in early July, having to miss two months of the season.

Returning in September, Mookie was one of the leaders of the Mets' pennant push, hitting .307 for the month to lift his overall average from .260 to .276. Right after the season, he underwent another medical procedure on the shoulder, which hopefully will rid Mookie of the problem for good.

The all-time club leader with 213 steals and the senior Met in terms of continuous service, Mookie and his wife Rosa celebrated the birth of their third child, Ernestine, during the off-season.

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Lady Mets Club Officers at 1985 Christmas Giving Party

LENNY DYKSTRA

4

Line drive. Flying feet. Cloud of dust. Whoosh. That's Lenny Dykstra.

The Mets' petal-to-the-metal man, Lenny must have felt like a yo-yo during the early part of the season, as he was called up from Tidewater twice and sent down each time. While at Tidewater, he compiled a .310 average and 26 stolen bases in 58 games. But when Mookie Wilson was forced to undergo shoulder surgery in early July, Lenny came up to stay. And play.

He ran the bases with abandon, stealing 15 bases in 17 attempts with the Mets (that's 41 steals combined for the Tides and the Mets, folks). He had one late-summer stretch (July 25-August 23) in which he reached base safely on a hit or walk in 20 straight starts. He scored four runs—an NL high for the year—in a 16-4 rout of Houston on July 27.

Looking forward to his first full major league season, Lenny promises more flat-out play this year. He might even try to keep his uniform clean through the National Anthem.

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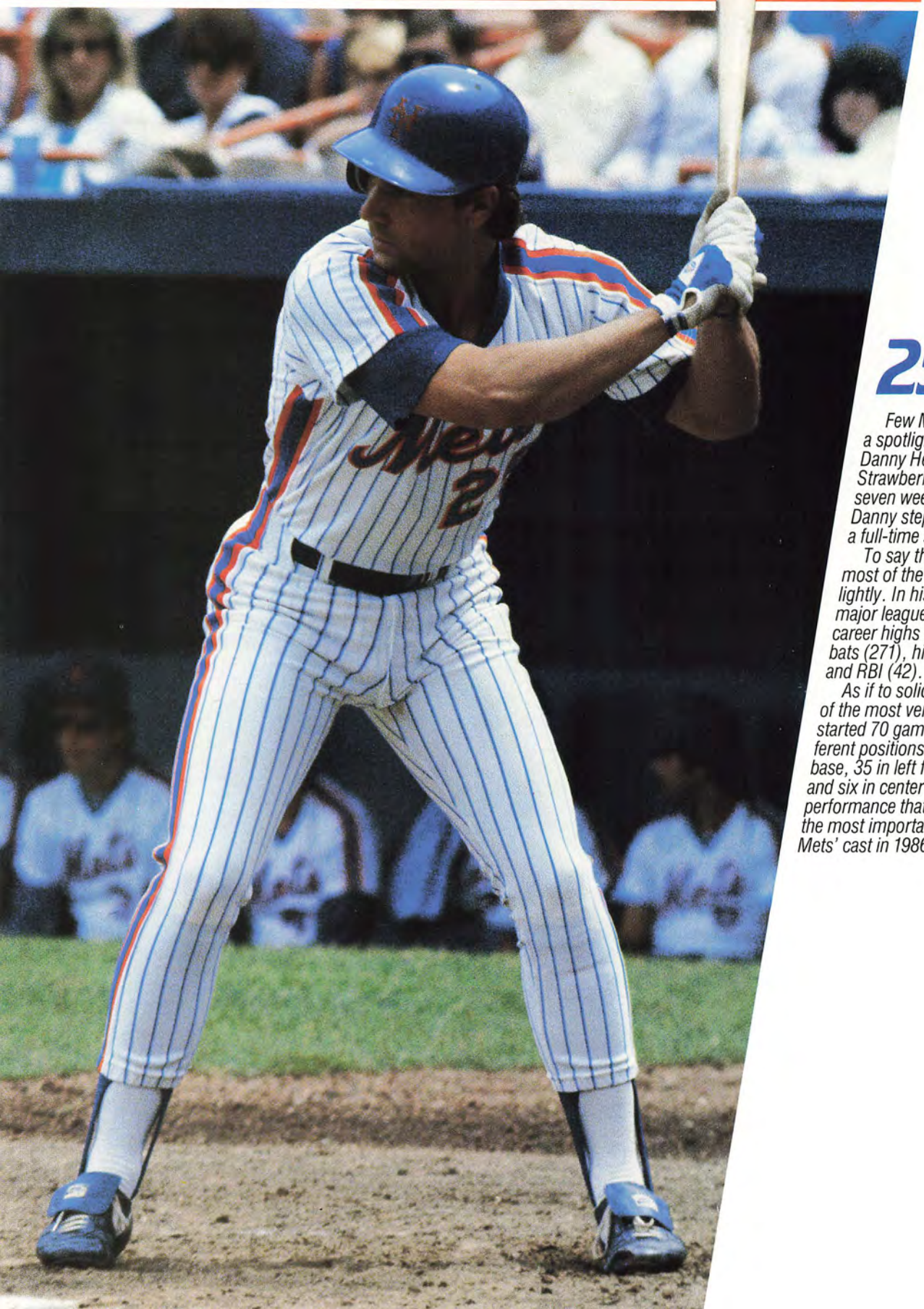
DANNY HEEP

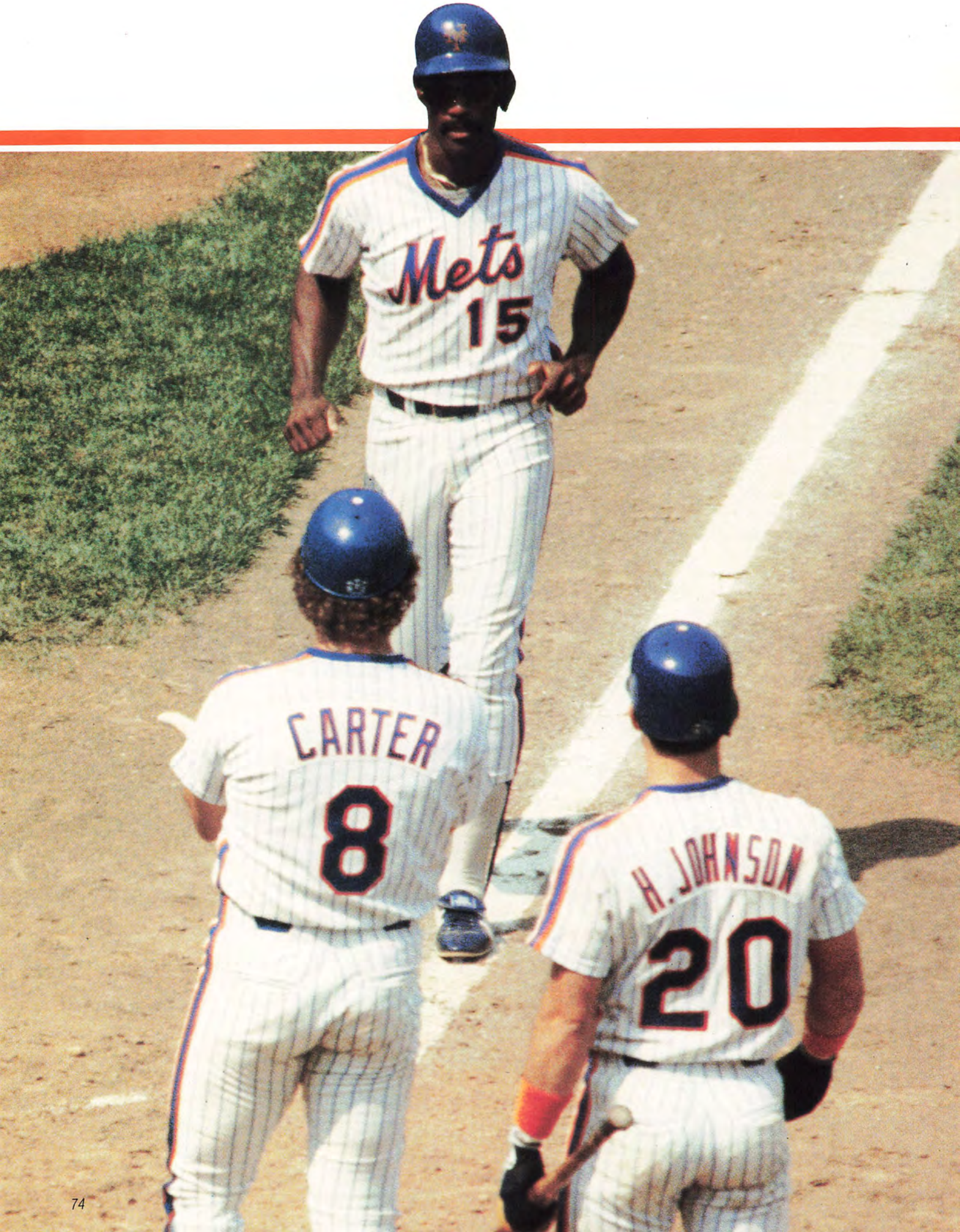


25

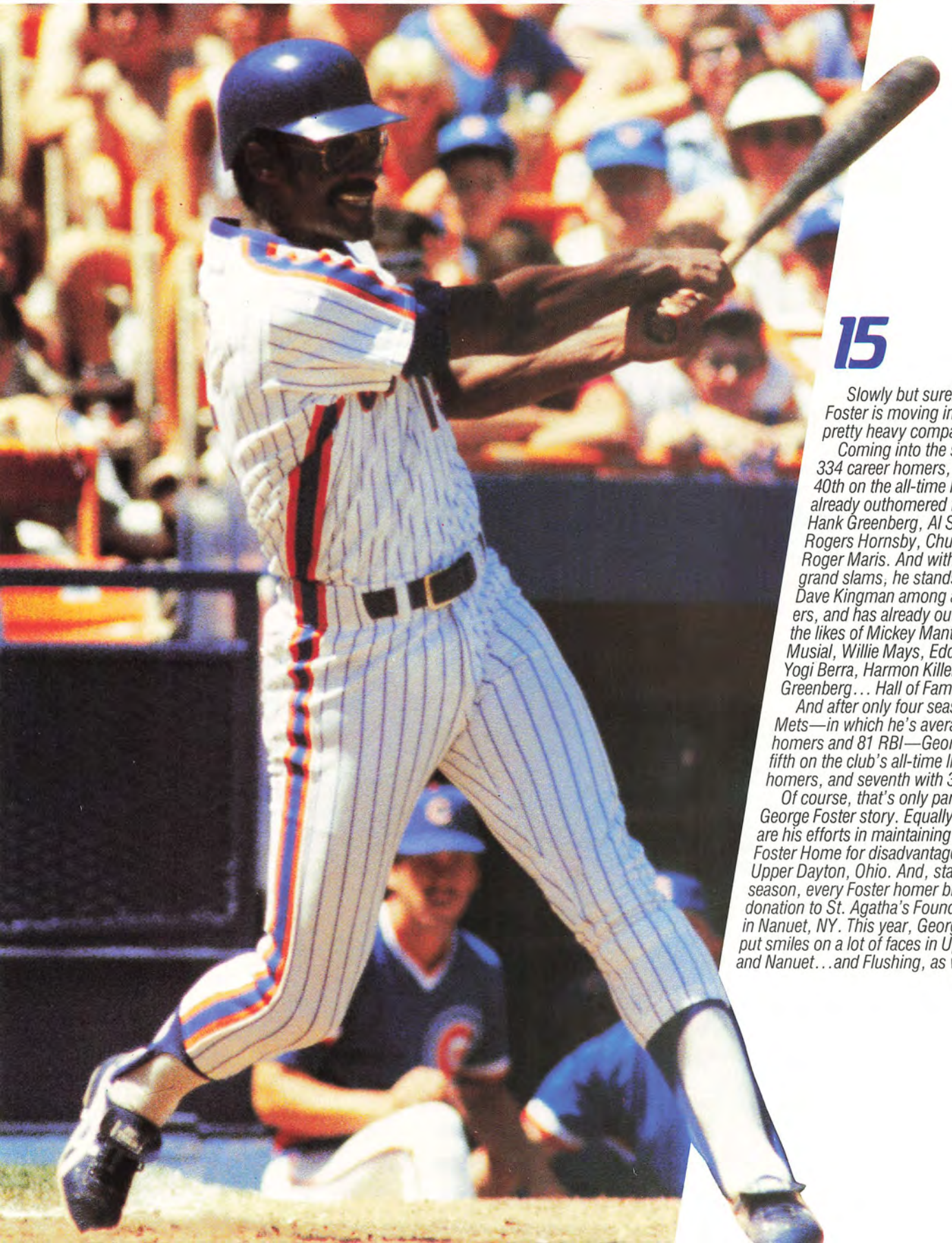
Few Mets were in as glaring a spotlight last season as was Danny Heep. When Darryl Strawberry was sidelined for seven weeks with a thumb injury, Danny stepped into the breach as a full-time starter.

To say that Danny made the most of the opportunity is putting it lightly. In his busiest season as a major leaguer, Danny established career highs in average (.280), at bats (271), hits (76), doubles (17) and RBI (42).

As if to solidify his position as one of the most versatile of Mets, Danny started 70 games last year in four different positions: two games at first base, 35 in left field, 27 in right field and six in center field. It's that kind of performance that'll make Danny one of the most important members of the Mets' cast in 1986.


Mets
15
CARTER
8
H. JOHNSON
20

GEORGE FOSTER



15

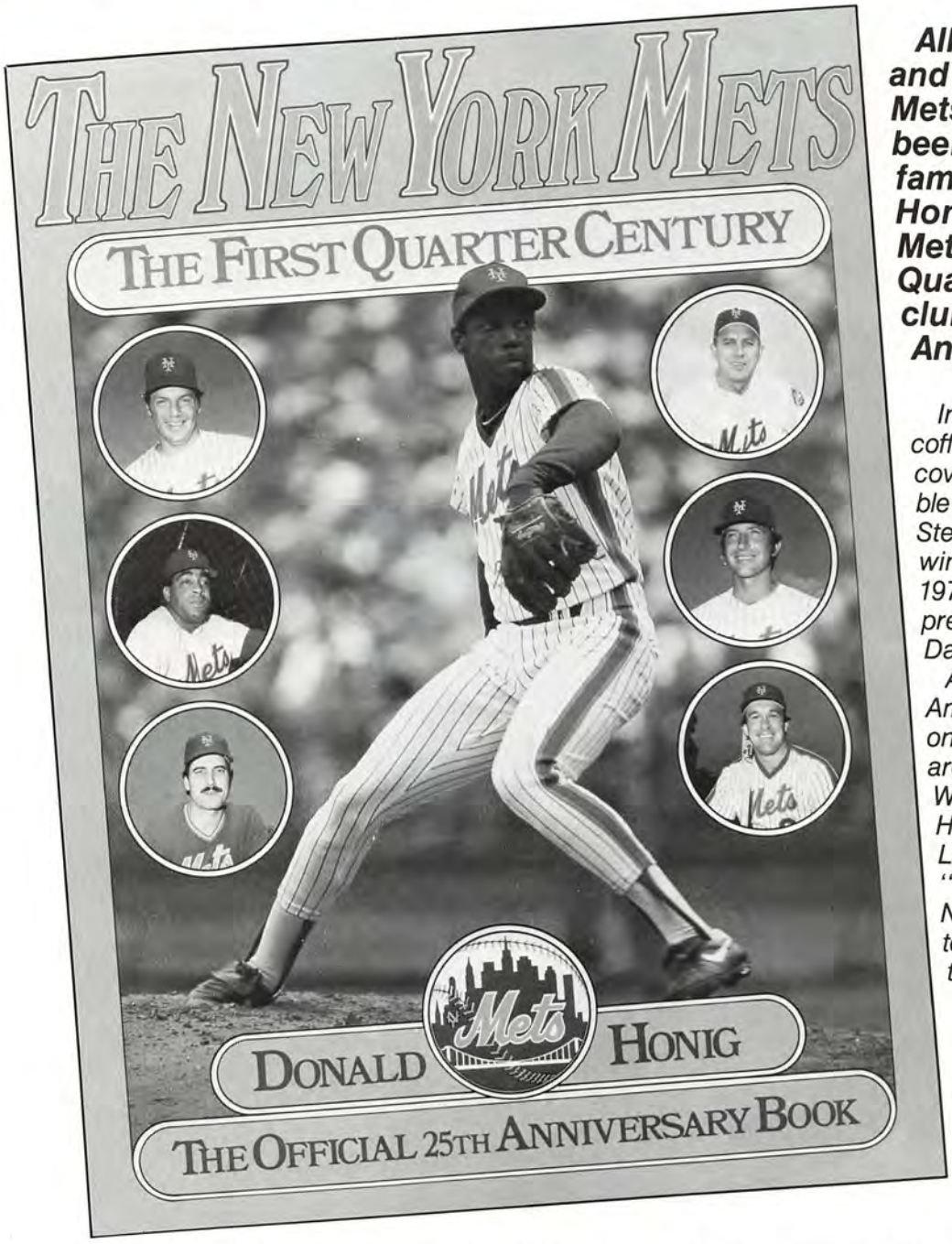
Slowly but surely, George Foster is moving into some pretty heavy company.

Coming into the season with 334 career homers, he stands 40th on the all-time list and has already outhomered folks like Hank Greenberg, Al Simmons, Rogers Hornsby, Chuck Klein and Roger Maris. And with 12 career grand slams, he stands second to Dave Kingman among active players, and has already out-slammed the likes of Mickey Mantle, Stan Musial, Willie Mays, Eddie Mathews, Yogi Berra, Harmon Killebrew and Greenberg... Hall of Famers all.

And after only four seasons with the Mets—in which he's averaged 22 homers and 81 RBI—George is already fifth on the club's all-time list with 86 homers, and seventh with 323 RBI.

Of course, that's only part of the George Foster story. Equally important are his efforts in maintaining the George Foster Home for disadvantaged children in Upper Dayton, Ohio. And, starting last season, every Foster homer brought a donation to St. Agatha's Foundling Hospital in Nanuet, NY. This year, George hopes to put smiles on a lot of faces in Upper Dayton and Nanuet...and Flushing, as well.

THE METS' OFFICIAL 25TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK



All the thrills, action and excitement of the Mets' first 25 years have been captured by famed author Donald Honig in "The New York Mets—The First Quarter Century"...the club's official 25th Anniversary Book.

In words and pictures, this coffee-table, hardcover work covers the Mets from their humble beginnings under Casey Stengel, through to the pennant-winning seasons of 1969 and 1973, right up to the club's present rebirth under manager Davey Johnson.

Author Donald Honig is one of America's best-known authors on baseball. Among his works are "Baseball When the Grass Was Real" and "The October Heroes," and, along with Lawrence Ritter, the classic "The Glory of Their Times." Now, he uses his special talents to tell the vibrant story of the Mets.

***"The New York Mets—The First Quarter Century"** is available at Shea Stadium and at all major bookstores for $17.95. It's also available by mail by sending a check or money order for $20.95 ($17.95 plus $3.00 to cover postage and handling), payable to the New York Mets, to:*

PROMOTION GRAPHICS
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PLAYER STATISTICS

Rick Aguilera 38

RHP, 6-4, 200 lbs., R-R
Born: 12-31-61, San Gabriel, CA; Resides: West Covina, CA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1983	Little Falls (A)	5-6	3.72	16	15	4	2	0	104.	109	55	43	26	84
1984	Lynchburg (A)	8-3	2.34	13	13	6	3	0	88.1	72	29	23	28	101
1984	Jackson (AA)	4-4	4.57	11	11	2	1	0	67.	68	37	34	19	71
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	6-4	2.51	11	11	2	1	0	79.	64	24	22	17	55
1985	Mets (NL)	10-7	3.24	21	19	2	0	0	122.1	118	49	44	37	74
Major League Totals		10-7	3.24	21	19	2	0	0	122.1	118	49	44	37	74

Wally Backman 6

INF, 5-9, 160 lbs., SW-R
Born: 9-22-59, Hillsboro, OR; Resides: Beaverton, OR

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1977	Little Falls (Rookie)	.325	69	255	44	83	10	2	6	30	28	53	20
1978	Lynchburg (A)	.302	132	494	86	149	19	9	3	38	74	99	42
1979	Jackson (AA)	.282	110	404	63	114	11	5	2	19	35	50	23
1980	Tidewater (AAA)	.293	125	400	53	117	15	5	1	51	87	67	11
1980	Mets (NL)	.323	27	93	12	30	1	1	0	9	11	14	2
1981	Mets (NL)	.278	26	36	5	10	2	0	0	0	4	7	1
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	.153	21	59	6	9	3	1	0	6	10	8	2
1982	Mets (NL)	.272	96	261	37	71	13	2	3	22	49	47	8
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.316	101	361	69	114	11	3	1	28	68	46	36
1983	Mets (NL)	.167	26	42	6	7	0	1	0	3	2	8	0
1984	Mets (NL)	.280	128	436	68	122	19	2	1	26	56	63	32
1985	Mets (NL)	.273	145	520	77	142	24	5	1	38	36	72	30
Major League Totals		.275	448	1388	205	382	59	11	5	98	158	211	73

GWRBI: 1980—0; 1981—0; 1982—4; 1983—0; 1984—7; 1985—3. Total—14.

Bruce Berenyi 31

RHP, 6-3, 215 lbs., R-R
Born: 8-21-54, Bryan, OH; Resides: Sherwood, OH

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1976	Eugene (A)	3-1	4.78	12	11	0	0	0	49.	50	37	26	55	39
1977	Shelby (A)	10-8	2.30	25	21	7	2	0	145.	102	55	37	75	120
1978	Nashville (AA)	10-5	2.47	23	23	3	0	0	135.	107	44	37	63	103
1979	Indianapolis (AAA)	9-9	2.82	25	25	6	3	0	166.	134	64	52	98	136
1980	Indianapolis (AAA)	5-8	4.32	20	20	2	0	0	123.	111	66	59	100	121
1980	Cincinnati (NL)	2-2	7.71	6	6	0	0	0	28.	34	26	24	23	19
1981	Cincinnati (NL)	9-6	3.50	21	20	5	3	0	126.	97	55	49	77	106
1982	Cincinnati (NL)	9-18	3.36	34	34	4	1	0	222.1	208	90	83	96	157
1983	Cincinnati (NL)	9-14	3.86	32	31	4	1	0	186.1	173	92	80	102	151
1984	Cin-Mets (NL)	12-13	4.45	32	30	0	0	0	166.	163	93	82	95	134
1985	Mets (NL)	1-0	2.63	3	3	0	0	0	13.2	8	6	4	10	10
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	0-0	9.00	1	1	0	0	0	1.	3	1	1	0	1
Major League Totals		42-53	3.90	128	124	13	5	0	742.1	683	362	322	403	577

Gary Carter 8

C, 6-2, 210 lbs., R-R
Born: 4-8-54, Culver City, CA; Resides: Palm Beach Gardens, FL

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1972	Cocoa (Rk.)	.239	18	71	6	17	3	0	2	9	8	11	1
1972	West Palm Beach (A)	.320	20	50	9	16	2	2	0	5	13	9	0
1973	Quebec (AA)	.253	130	439	65	111	16	1	15	68	63	92	5
1973	Peninsula (AAA)	.280	8	25	2	7	2	0	0	1	1	5	0
1974	Memphis (AAA)	.268	135	441	62	118	14	7	23	83	59	75	6
1974	Montreal (NL)	.407	9	27	5	11	0	1	1	6	1	2	2
1975	Montreal (NL)	.270	144	503	58	136	20	1	17	68	72	83	5
1976	Montreal (NL)	.219	91	311	31	68	8	1	6	38	30	43	0
1977	Montreal (NL)	.284	154	522	86	148	29	2	31	84	58	103	5
1978	Montreal (NL)	.255	157	533	76	136	27	1	20	72	62	70	10
1979	Montreal (NL)	.283	141	505	74	143	26	5	22	75	40	62	3
1980	Montreal (NL)	.264	154	549	76	145	25	5	29	101	58	78	3
1981	Montreal (NL)	.251	100	374	48	94	20	2	16	68	35	35	1
1982	Montreal (NL)	.293	154	557	91	163	32	1	29	97	78	66	2
1983	Montreal (NL)	.270	145	541	63	146	37	3	17	79	51	57	1
1984	Montreal (NL)	.294	159	596	75	175	32	1	27	106	64	57	2
1985	Mets (NL)	.281	149	555	83	156	17	1	32	100	69	46	1
Major League Totals		.273	1557	5573	766	1521	273	24	247	894	618	702	35

GWRBI: 1980—13; 1981—7; 1982—10; 1983—5; 1984—16; 1985—18. Total—69.

DIVISION SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1981	Montreal (NL)	.421	5	19	3	8	3	0	2	6	1	1	0

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1981	Montreal (NL)	.438	5	16	3	7	1	0	0	0	4	2	0

Gary Carter Continued

ALL-STAR GAME RECORD

YEAR	LEAGUE, SITE	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1975	National, Milwaukee	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1979	National, Seattle	.500	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1980	National, L.A.	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1981	National, Cleveland	.667	1	3	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
1982	National, Montreal	.333	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1983	National, Chicago (A)	.000	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1984	National, S.F.	.500	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
1985	National, Minnesota	(Selected, did not play due to injury)											
All-Star Game Totals		.385	7	13	3	5	0	0	3	5	1	0	0

Tim Corcoran 27

OF-1B, 5-11, 180 lbs., L-L
Born: 3-19-53, Glendale, CA; Resides: Covina, CA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1974	Bristol (A)	.370	27	92	20	34	6	0	3	25	16	5	7
1974	Lakeland (A)	.270	36	126	15	34	1	3	1	16	13	9	0
1975	Montgomery (AA)	.245	122	388	42	95	20	3	3	36	46	35	7
1976	Montgomery (AA)	.309	129	437	66	135	25	5	5	60	57	33	13
1977	Evansville (AAA)	.346	39	136	27	47	11	3	7	33	30	13	3
1977	DETROIT (AL)	.282	55	103	13	29	3	0	3	15	6	9	0
1978	DETROIT (AL)	.265	116	324	37	86	13	1	1	27	24	27	3
1979	DETROIT (AL)	.227	18	22	4	5	1	0	0	6	4	2	1
1979	Evansville (AAA)	.338	87	287	40	97	15	0	4	50	42	34	8
1980	DETROIT (AL)	.288	84	153	20	44	7	1	3	18	22	10	0
1981	Evansville (AAA)	.298	106	336	48	100	17	1	8	63	60	37	3
1981	MINNESOTA (AL)	.176	22	51	4	9	3	0	0	4	6	7	0
1982	Oklahoma City (AAA)	.289	120	433	60	125	28	5	7	69	48	39	4
1983	Portland (AAA)	.311	128	454	75	141	30	7	9	93	62	32	2
1983	PHILADELPHIA (NL)	—	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1984	PHILADELPHIA (NL)	.341	102	208	30	71	13	1	5	36	37	27	0
1985	PHILADELPHIA (NL)	.214	103	182	11	39	6	1	0	22	29	20	0
Major League Totals		.271	503	1043	119	283	46	4	12	128	128	102	4

GWRBI: 1980—0; 1981—0; 1983—0; 1984—1; 1985—2. Total—3.

Ron Darling 12

RHP, 6-3, 195 lbs., R-R
Born: 8-19-60, Honolulu, HI; Resides: New York, NY

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1981	Tulsa (AA)	4-2	4.44	13	13	2	2	0	71.	72	43	35	33	53
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	7-9	3.73	26	26	6	2	0	152.	143	76	63	95	114
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	10-9	4.02	27	27	5	1	0	159.	137	83	71	102	107
1983	Mets (NL)	1-3	2.80	5	5	1	0	0	35.1	31	11	11	17	23
1984	Mets (NL)	12-9	3.81	33	33	2	2	0	205.2	179	97	87	104	136
1985	Mets (NL)	16-6	2.90	36	35	4	2	0	248.	214	93	80	114	167
Major League Totals		29-18	3.28	74	73	7	4	0	489.	424	201	178	235	326

GWRBI: 1983—0; 1984—0; 1985—0; Total—0.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORD

YEAR	LEAGUE, SITE	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1985	Natl., Minnesota	(Selected, did not pitch)												

Lenny Dykstra 4

OF, 5-10, 160 lbs., L-L
Born: 2-10-63, Santa Ana, CA; Resides: Garden Grove, CA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1981	Shelby (A)	.261	48	157	34	41	7	2	0	18	37	31	15
1982	Shelby (A)	.291	120	413	95	120	13	7	3	38	95	40	77
1983	Lynchburg (A)	.358	136	525	132	188	24	14	8	81	107	35	105
1984	Jackson (AA)	.275	131	501	100	138	25	7	6	52	73	45	53
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	.310	58	229	44	71	8	6	1	25	31	20	26
1985	Mets (NL)	.254	83	236	40	60	9	3	1	19	30	24	15
Major League Totals		.254	83	236	40	60	9	3	1	19	30	24	15

GWRBI: 1985—3. Total—3.

Sid Fernandez 50

LHP, 6-1, 205 lbs., L-L
Born: 10-12-62, Honolulu, HI; Resides: Honolulu, HI

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1981	Lethbridge (A)	5-1	1.54	11	11	2	1	0	76.	43	21	13	31	128
1982	Vero Beach (A)	8-1	1.91	12	12	5	4	0	84.2	38	19	18	38	137
1982	Albuquerque (AAA)	6-5	5.42	13	13	5	0	0	88.	76	54	53	52	86
1983	San Antonio (AA)	13-4	2.82	24	24	4	1	0	153.	111	61	48	96	209
1983	Los Angeles (NL)	0-1	6.00	2	1	0	0	0	6.	7	4	4	7	9
1984	Tidewater (AAA)	6-5	2.56	17	17	3	0	0	105.2	69	39	30	63	123
1984	Mets (NL)	6-6	3.50	15	15	0	0	0	90.	74	40	35	34	62
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	4-1	2.04	5	5	1	0	0	35.1	17	8	8	21	42
1985	Mets (NL)	9-9	2.80	26	26	3	0	0	170.1	108	56	53	80	180
Major League Totals		15-16	3.11	43	42	3	0	0	266.1	189	100	92	121	251

George Foster 15

OF, 6-1, 198 lbs., R-R
Born: 12-1-48, Tuscaloosa, AL; Resides: Greenwich, CT

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1968	Medford (A)	.277	72	253	47	70	9	5	3	30	28	20	3
1969	Fresno (A)	.321	121	449	68	144	5	8	14	85	37	59	1
1969	San Francisco (NL)	.400	9	5	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
1970	Phoenix (AAA)	.308	114	403	54	124	18	6	8	66	41	57	1
1970	San Francisco (NL)	.316	9	19	2	6	1	1	1	4	2	5	0
1971	SF-Cin (NL)	.241	140	473	50	114	23	4	13	58	29	120	7
1972	Cincinnati (NL)	.200	59	145	15	29	4	1	2	12	5	44	2
1973	Indianapolis (AAA)	.262	134	496	77	130	26	1	15	60	44	109	4
1973	Cincinnati (NL)	.282	17	39	6	11	3	0	4	9	4	7	0
1974	Cincinnati (NL)	.264	106	276	31	73	18	0	7	41	30	52	3
1975	Cincinnati (NL)	.300	134	463	71	139	24	4	23	78	40	73	2
1976	Cincinnati (NL)	.306	144	562	86	172	21	9	29	121	52	89	17
1977	Cincinnati (NL)	.320	158	615	124	197	31	2	52	149	61	107	6
1978	Cincinnati (NL)	.281	158	604	97	170	26	7	40	120	70	138	4
1979	Cincinnati (NL)	.302	121	440	68	133	18	3	30	98	59	105	0
1980	Cincinnati (NL)	.273	144	528	79	144	21	5	25	93	75	99	1
1981	Cincinnati (NL)	.295	108	414	64	122	23	2	22	90	51	75	4
1982	Mets (NL)	.247	151	550	64	136	23	2	13	70	50	123	1
1983	Mets (NL)	.241	157	601	74	145	19	2	28	90	38	111	1
1984	Mets (NL)	.269	146	553	67	149	22	1	24	86	30	122	2
1985	Mets (NL)	.263	129	452	57	119	24	1	21	77	46	87	0
Major League Totals		.276	1890	6739	956	1861	301	44	334	1197	642	1358	50

GWRBI: 1980—16; 1981—13; 1982—6; 1983—12; 1984—7; 1985—10. Total—64.

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1972	Cincinnati (NL)	.000	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1975	Cincinnati (NL)	.364	3	11	3	4	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
1976	Cincinnati (NL)	.167	3	12	2	2	0	0	2	4	0	4	0
1979	Cincinnati (NL)	.200	3	10	1	2	0	0	1	2	4	3	0
Championship Series Totals		.242	10	33	7	8	0	0	3	6	5	9	1

WORLD SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1972	Cincinnati (NL)	.000	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1975	Cincinnati (NL)	.276	7	29	1	8	1	0	0	2	1	1	1
1976	Cincinnati (NL)	.429	4	14	3	6	1	0	0	4	2	3	0
World Series Totals		.326	13	43	4	14	2	0	0	6	3	4	1

ALL-STAR GAME RECORD

YEAR	LEAGUE, SITE	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1976	National, Philadelphia	.333	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
1977	National, New York (AL)	.333	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
1978	National, San Diego	.000	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
1979	National, Seattle	1.000	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
1981	National, Cleveland	.000	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All-Star Game Totals		.273	5	11	3	3	2	0	1	5	2	2	0

Ron Gardenhire 19

INF, 6-0, 174 lbs., R-R
Born: 10-24-57, Butzbach, West Germany; Resides: Wichita, KS

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1979	Lynchburg (A)	.296	70	277	36	83	13	3	4	27	21	45	9
1980	Jackson (AA)	.258	127	458	58	118	16	6	6	64	45	68	13
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	.254	125	414	52	105	17	8	2	40	28	61	28
1981	Mets (NL)	.271	27	48	2	13	1	0	0	3	5	9	2
1982	Mets (NL)	.240	141	384	29	92	17	1	3	33	23	55	5
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.287	102	387	63	111	20	6	4	39	34	55	9
1983	Mets (NL)	.063	17	32	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	4	0
1984	Mets (NL)	.246	74	207	20	51	7	1	1	10	9	43	6
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	.211	22	71	3	15	2	0	1	10	6	13	0
1985	Mets (NL)	.179	26	39	5	7	2	1	0	2	8	11	0
Major League Totals		.232	285	710	57	165	27	3	4	49	46	122	13

GWRBI: 1981—0; 1982—3; 1983—0; 1984—0; 1985—0. Total—3.

John Gibbons 7

C, 5-11, 187 lbs., R-R
Born: 6-8-62, Great Falls, MT; Resides: San Antonio, TX

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1980	Kingsport (A)	.276	53	181	28	50	7	1	7	34	18	39	1
1981	Shelby (A)	.189	109	360	33	68	11	4	8	57	50	86	2
1982	Shelby (A)	.265	99	321	60	85	13	2	12	67	58	65	6
1982	Jackson (AA)	.278	6	18	1	5	0	1	0	3	1	5	0
1983	Jackson (AA)	.298	110	373	63	111	25	1	18	67	39	84	6
1984	Tidewater (AAA)	.256	65	211	31	54	9	1	6	27	20	50	1
1984	Mets (NL)	.065	10	31	1	2	0	0	0	1	3	11	0
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	.259	108	370	35	96	10	2	9	30	35	78	3
1985	Mets (NL)	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major League Totals		.065	10	31	1	2	0	0	0	1	3	11	0

GWRBI: 1984—0; 1985—0. Total—0.

Dwight Gooden 16

RHP, 6-3, 198 lbs., R-R
Born: 11-16-64, Tampa, FL; Resides: Tampa, FL

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1982	Kingsport (A)	5-4	2.47	9	9	4	2	0	66.	53	34	18	25	66
1982	Little Falls (A)	0-1	4.15	2	2	0	0	0	13.	11	6	6	3	18
1983	Lynchburg (A)	19-4	2.50	27	27	10	6	0	191.	121	58	53	112	300
1984	Mets (NL)	17-9	2.60	31	31	7	3	0	218.	161	72	63	73	276
1985	Mets (NL)	24-4	1.53	35	35	16	8	0	276.2	198	51	47	69	268
Major League Totals		41-13	2.00	66	66	23	11	0	494.2	359	123	110	142	544

GWRBI: 1984—0; 1985—0. Total-0.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORD

YEAR	LEAGUE, SITE	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1984	Natl., San Francisco	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	2.	1	0	0	0	3
1985	Natl., Minnesota	(Selected, did not pitch)												
All-Star Game Totals		0-0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	2.	1	0	0	0	3

Ed Hearn 49

C-1B, 6-3, 215 lbs., R-R
Born: 8-23-60, Stuart, FL; Resides: Ft. Pierce, FL

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1978	Helena (A)	.283	47	173	34	49	3	1	13	45	17	36	5
1979	(Did not play—injured)												
1980	Spartanburg (A)	.300	66	217	25	65	12	2	3	32	20	44	1
1981	Peninsula (A)	.303	101	317	61	96	29	2	10	44	47	71	8
1982	Peninsula (A)	.329	21	76	15	25	2	0	6	14	5	24	1
1982	Reading (AA)	.274	43	135	16	37	6	2	3	27	9	20	0
1983	Jackson (AA)	.300	5	20	4	6	1	0	0	2	2	5	1
1983	Lynchburg (A)	.272	91	290	37	79	16	1	5	47	47	40	5
1984	Jackson (AA)	.312	86	311	46	97	19	2	11	51	25	35	1
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	.263	112	418	35	110	29	1	5	57	26	62	1

Danny Heep 25

OF-1B, 5-11, 185 lbs., L-L
Born: 7-3-57, San Antonio, TX; Resides: San Antonio, TX

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1978	Daytona Beach (A)	.340	66	212	29	72	18	2	2	24	50	25	0
1979	Columbus (AA)	.327	138	523	103	171	30	5	21	84	49	32	7
1979	Houston (NL)	.143	14	14	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	4	0
1980	Tucson (AAA)	.343	96	376	63	129	28	5	17	69	36	36	0
1980	Houston (NL)	.276	33	87	6	24	8	0	0	6	8	9	0
1981	Houston (NL)	.250	33	96	6	24	3	0	0	11	10	11	0
1981	Tucson (AAA)	.337	78	285	55	96	23	5	11	60	47	19	3
1982	Houston (NL)	.237	85	198	16	47	14	1	4	22	21	31	0
1983	Mets (NL)	.253	115	253	30	64	12	0	8	21	29	40	3
1984	Mets (NL)	.231	99	199	36	46	9	2	1	12	27	22	3
1985	Mets (NL)	.280	95	271	26	76	17	0	7	42	27	27	2
Major League Totals		.253	474	1118	120	283	63	3	20	116	123	144	8

GWRBI: 1980—0; 1981—2; 1982—1; 1983—3; 1984—0; 1985-3. Total—9.

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1980	Houston (NL)	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Keith Hernandez 17

1B, 6-0, 195 lbs., L-L
Born: 10-20-1953, San Francisco, CA; Resides: New York, NY

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1972	St. Petersburg (A)	.256	84	309	38	79	16	5	5	41	42	39	6
1972	Tulsa (AAA)	.241	11	29	5	7	1	0	0	1	0	6	0
1973	Arkansas (AA)	.260	105	388	62	101	20	2	3	52	49	53	8
1973	Tulsa (AAA)	.333	31	120	20	40	6	1	5	25	9	18	0
1974	Tulsa (AAA)	.351	102	353	67	124	18	6	14	63	48	50	0
1974	St. Louis (NL)	.294	14	34	3	10	1	2	0	2	7	8	0
1975	St. Louis (NL)	.250	64	188	20	47	8	2	3	20	17	26	0
1975	Tulsa (AAA)	.330	85	324	70	107	29	3	10	48	62	48	3
1976	St. Louis (NL)	.289	129	374	54	108	21	5	7	46	49	53	4
1977	St. Louis (NL)	.291	161	560	90	163	41	4	15	91	79	88	7
1978	St. Louis (NL)	.255	159	542	90	138	32	4	11	64	82	68	13
1979	St. Louis (NL)	.344	161	610	116	210	48	11	11	105	80	78	11
1980	St. Louis (NL)	.321	159	595	111	191	39	8	16	99	86	73	14
1981	St. Louis (NL)	.306	103	376	65	115	27	4	8	48	61	45	12
1982	St. Louis (NL)	.299	160	579	79	173	33	6	7	94	100	67	19
1983	StL-Mets (NL)	.297	150	538	77	160	23	7	12	63	88	72	9
1984	Mets (NL)	.311	154	550	83	171	31	0	15	94	97	89	2
1985	Mets (NL)	.309	158	593	87	183	34	4	10	91	77	59	3
Major League Totals		.301	1572	5539	875	1669	338	57	115	817	823	726	94

GWRBI: 1980—13; 1981—10; 1982—21; 1983—9; 1984—17; 1985—24. Total—94.

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1982	St. Louis (NL)	.333	3	12	3	4	0	0	0	1	2	3	0

WORLD SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1982	St. Louis (NL)	.259	7	27	4	7	2	0	1	8	4	2	0

Keith Hernandez Continued

ALL-STAR GAME RECORD

YEAR	LEAGUE, SITE	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1979	National, Seattle	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1980	National, Los Angeles	1.000	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1984	National, San Francisco	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
All-Star Game Totals		.500	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Howard Johnson 20

INF, 5-10, 175 lbs., SW-R
Born: 11-29-60, Clearwater, FL; Resides: Woodbury, NY

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1979	Lakeland (A)	.235	132	456	49	107	9	6	3	49	69	85	18
1980	Lakeland (A)	.285	130	474	83	135	28	1	10	69	73	75	31
1981	Birmingham (AA)	.266	138	488	84	130	28	7	22	83	75	93	19
1982	Evansville (AAA)	.317	98	336	70	116	16	4	23	67	46	62	35
1982	Detroit (AL)	.316	54	155	23	49	5	0	4	14	16	30	7
1983	Detroit (AL)	.212	27	66	11	14	0	0	3	5	7	10	0
1983	Evansville (AAA)	.222	3	9	1	2	1	0	0	0	4	2	0
1984	Detroit (AL)	.248	116	355	43	88	14	1	12	50	40	67	10
1985	Mets (NL)	.242	126	389	38	94	18	4	11	46	34	78	6
Major League Totals		.254	323	965	115	245	37	5	30	115	97	185	23

GWRBI: 1982—0; 1983—0; 1984—8; 1985—8. Total—16.

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1984	Detroit (AL)	(Did not play)											

WORLD SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1984	Detroit (AL)	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ray Knight 22

INF, 6-2, 185 lbs., R-R
Born: 12-28-52, Albany, GA; Resides: Albany, GA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1971	Sioux Falls (A)	.285	64	239	34	68	5	2	6	31	26	27	6
1972	Three Rivers (AA)	.212	97	302	25	64	8	1	2	35	21	41	2
1973	Three Rivers (AA)	.280	57	193	41	54	14	2	2	22	28	33	1
1973	Indianapolis (AAA)	.217	78	253	20	55	10	4	1	16	24	40	3
1974	Indianapolis (AAA)	.227	107	352	36	80	13	4	5	37	17	51	2
1974	Cincinnati (NL)	.182	14	11	1	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	0
1975	Indianapolis (AAA)	.272	123	434	58	118	16	5	4	48	40	51	3
1976	Indianapolis (AAA)	.268	110	396	47	106	24	3	10	41	36	50	2
1977	Cincinnati (NL)	.261	80	92	8	24	5	1	1	13	9	16	1
1978	Cincinnati (NL)	.200	83	65	7	13	3	0	1	4	3	13	0
1979	Cincinnati (NL)	.318	150	551	64	175	37	4	10	79	38	57	4
1980	Cincinnati (NL)	.264	162	618	71	163	39	7	14	78	36	62	1
1981	Cincinnati (NL)	.259	106	386	43	100	23	1	6	34	33	51	2
1982	Houston (NL)	.294	158	609	72	179	36	6	6	70	48	58	2
1983	Houston (NL)	.304	145	507	43	154	36	4	9	70	42	62	0
1984	Hou-Mets (NL)	.237	115	371	28	88	14	0	3	35	21	43	0
1985	Mets (NL)	.218	90	271	22	59	12	0	6	36	13	32	1
Major League Totals		.275	1103	3481	359	957	206	23	56	421	244	396	11

GWRBI: 1980—12; 1981—7; 1982—11; 1983—8; 1984—2; 1985—2. Total—42.

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1979	Cincinnati (NL)	.286	3	14	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	2	1

ALL-STAR GAME RECORD

YEAR	LEAGUE, SITE	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1980	National, Los Angeles	1.000	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1982	National, Montreal	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All-Star Game Totals		.250	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Terry Leach 26

RHP, 6-0, 205 lbs., R-R
Born: 3-13-54, Selma, AL; Resides: Selma, AL

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1976	Baton Rouge (A)	2-0	6.16	5	1	1	0	0	19.	43	21	13	14	15
1977	Greenwood (A)	3-2	2.55	20	0	0	0	3	67.	47	25	19	24	67
1978	Savannah (AA)	1-0	5.04	9	2	0	0	0	25.	24	17	14	13	21
1978	Kinston (A)	5-4	3.27	34	0	0	0	8	66.	57	29	24	24	46
1979	Savannah (AA)	2-9	1.96	40	0	0	0	2	92.	77	33	20	26	68
1979	Richmond (AAA)	3-1	1.93	7	2	1	0	1	14.	14	3	3	4	12
1980	Savannah (AA)	5-1	3.66	24	5	2	0	1	91.	90	43	37	20	60
1980	Jackson (AA)	5-1	1.50	8	7	3	2	0	54.	50	16	9	15	30
1981	Jackson (AA)	5-1	1.71	8	7	2	1	0	58.	47	14	11	12	43
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	5-2	2.72	15	8	4	1	0	76.	63	27	23	19	42
1981	Mets (NL)	1-1	2.57	21	1	0	0	0	35.	26	11	10	12	16
1982	Tidewater (AAA)	4-1	2.96	30	0	0	0	5	49.	48	20	16	19	34
1982	Mets (NL)	2-1	4.17	21	1	1	1	3	45.1	46	22	21	18	30
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	5-7	4.46	37	7	2	0	6	113.	120	66	56	42	66
1984	Richmond (AAA)	1-2	9.20	12	0	0	0	1	14.2	28	16	15	3	6
1984	Tidewater (AAA)	10-2	1.90	31	0	0	0	0	80.1	70	26	17	27	53
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	1-0	1.59	24	0	0	0	4	45.1	33	12	8	8	25
1985	Mets (NL)	3-4	2.91	22	4	1	1	1	55.2	48	19	18	14	30
Major League Totals		6-6	3.24	64	6	2	2	4	136	120	52	49	44	76

GWRBI: 1981—0; 1982—0; 1985—0. Total—0.

Ed Lynch 36

RHP, 6-5, 207 lbs., R-R
Born: 2-25-56, Brooklyn, NY; Resides: Miami, FL

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1977	Sarasota (Rookie)	1-4	3.70	13	6	2	0	2	56.	61	31	23	15	36
1978	Asheville (A)	7-9	3.29	18	18	7	1	0	123.	122	55	45	33	79
1978	Tulsa (AA)	4-3	2.65	7	7	5	0	0	54.	61	25	16	14	44
1979	Tucson (AAA)	10-11	4.79	27	25	6	2	0	156.	184	95	83	37	65
1980	Tidewater (AAA)	13-6	3.15	24	24	11	0	0	163.	151	69	57	42	91
1980	Mets (NL)	1-1	5.21	5	4	0	0	0	19.	24	12	11	5	9
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	7-6	3.91	15	15	6	3	0	99.	93	46	43	29	54
1981	Mets (NL)	4-5	2.93	17	13	0	0	0	80.	79	32	26	21	27
1982	Mets (NL)	4-8	3.55	43	12	0	0	2	139.1	145	57	55	40	51
1983	Mets (NL)	10-10	4.28	30	27	1	0	0	174.2	208	94	83	41	44
1984	Mets (NL)	9-8	4.50	40	13	0	0	2	124.	169	77	62	24	62
1985	Mets (NL)	10-8	3.44	31	29	6	1	0	191.	188	76	73	27	65
Major League Totals		38-40	3.83	166	98	7	1	4	728.	813	348	310	158	258

Barry Lyons 33

C-1B, 6-1, 205 lbs., R-R
Born: 6-3-60, Biloxi, MS; Resides: Biloxi, MS

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1982	Shelby (A)	.280	45	164	23	46	12	0	4	46	24	10	0
1983	Lynchburg (A)	.143	2	7	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
1983	Columbia (A)	.297	92	316	55	94	9	2	5	45	42	32	3
1984	Lynchburg (A)	.316	115	412	60	130	17	3	12	87	45	40	1
1985	Jackson (AA)	.307	126	486	69	149	34	6	11	108	25	67	3

Roger McDowell 42

RHP, 6-1, 175 lbs., R-R
Born: 12-21-60, Cincinatti, OH; Resides: Jackson, MI

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1982	Shelby (A)	6-4	3.28	12	11	4	0	0	71.	61	34	26	30	40
1982	Lynchburg (A)	2-0	2.15	4	4	2	1	0	29.	26	12	7	11	23
1983	Jackson (AA)	11-12	4.86	27	26	9	1	0	172.	203	111	93	71	115
1984	Jackson (AA)	0-0	3.68	3	2	0	0	0	7.1	9	3	3	1	8
1985	Mets (NL)	6-5	2.83	62	2	0	0	17	127.1	108	43	40	37	70
Major League Totals		6-5	2.83	62	2	0	0	17	127.1	108	43	40	37	70

Kevin Mitchell 35

INF, 5-11, 210 lbs., R-R
Born: 1-13-62, San Diego, CA; Resides: San Diego, CA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1981	Kingsport (A)	.335	62	221	39	74	9	2	7	45	22	31	5
1982	Lynchburg (A)	.318	29	85	19	27	5	1	1	16	13	25	0
1983	Jackson (AA)	.299	120	441	75	132	25	2	15	85	48	84	11
1984	Tidewater (AAA)	.243	120	432	51	105	21	3	10	54	25	89	1
1984	Mets (NL)	.214	7	14	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	.290	95	348	44	101	24	2	9	43	32	60	3
Major League Totals		.214	7	14	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0

GWRBI: 1984—0. Total—0.

Randy Myers 48

LHP, 6-1, 190 lbs., L-L
Born: 9-19-62, Vancouver, WA; Resides: Brush Prairie, WA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1982	Kingsport (Rookie)	6-3	4.12	13	13	1	0	0	74.	68	49	34	69	86
1983	Columbia (A)	14-10	3.63	28	28	3	0	0	173.	146	94	70	108	164
1984	Lynchburg (A)	13-5	2.06	23	22	7	1	0	157.	123	46	36	61	171
1984	Jackson (AA)	2-1	2.06	5	5	1	0	0	35.	29	14	8	16	35
1985	Jackson (AA)	4-8	3.96	19	19	2	1	0	120.1	99	61	53	69	116
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	1-1	1.84	8	7	0	0	0	44.	40	13	9	20	25
1985	Mets (NL)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	2.	0	0	0	1	2
Major League Totals		0-0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	2.	0	0	0	1	2

Randy Niemann 40

LHP, 6-6, 215 lbs., L-L
Born: 11-15-55, Scotia, CA; Resides: Fortuna, CA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1975	Oneonta (A)	3-3	2.45	8	8	3	1	0	55.	53	26	15	20	23
1976	Ft. Lauderdale (A)	9-10	2.84	25	25	10	2	0	190.	173	74	60	73	79
1977	West Haven (A)	4-4	5.52	13	8	2	0	1	62.	73	44	38	26	18
1977	Columbus (AA)	0-3	4.76	15	3	0	0	0	34.	36	22	18	19	15
1978	Columbus (AA)	9-5	2.05	29	14	9	1	1	123.	125	44	28	39	53
1979	Charleston (AA)	3-2	4.02	8	6	2	0	0	47.	49	25	21	10	17
1979	Houston (NL)	3-2	3.76	26	7	3	2	1	67.	68	32	28	22	24
1980	Tucson (AAA)	4-1	4.85	9	8	3	1	1	52.	64	36	28	26	26
1980	Houston (NL)	0-1	5.45	22	1	0	0	1	33.	40	21	20	12	18

Randy Niemann Continued

1981	Tucson (AAA)	4-2	4.89	10	10	1	0	0	57.	68	40	31	38	39
1982	Portland (AAA)	3-2	3.83	8	6	2	0	0	44.2	41	22	19	26	28
1982	Pittsburgh (NL)	1-1	5.09	20	0	0	0	1	35.1	34	22	20	17	26
1983	Pittsburgh (NL)	0-1	9.22	8	1	0	0	0	13.2	20	14	14	7	8
1983	Hawaii (AAA)	2-3	4.50	16	14	0	0	0	82.	95	49	41	45	52
1983	Chicago (AL)	0-0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.	0	0	0	0	0
1984	Denver (AAA)	10-12	5.86	32	29	9	1	0	190.1	235	136	124	86	110
1984	Chicago (AL)	0-0	1.69	5	0	0	0	0	5.1	5	1	1	5	5
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	11-6	2.76	30	19	4	1	0	159.2	152	65	49	51	76
1985	Mets (NL)	0-0	0.00	4	0	0	0	0	4.2	5	0	0	0	2
Major League Totals		4-5	4.70	85	9	3	2	3	159.	172	90	83	63	83

GWRBI: 1980—0; 1982—0; 1983—0; 1984—0 1985—0; Total—0.

Bob Ojeda 43

LHP, 6-1, 190 lbs., L-L
Born: 12-17-57, Los Angeles, CA; Resides: Visalia, CA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1978	Elmira (A)	1-6	4.81	18	3	0	0	2	43.	45	32	23	43	35
1979	Winter Haven (A)	15-7	2.43	29	29	8	2	0	200.	163	66	54	84	150
1980	Pawtucket (AAA)	6-7	3.22	19	18	4	0	0	123.	107	54	44	56	78
1980	Boston (AL)	1-1	6.92	7	7	0	0	0	26.	39	20	20	14	12
1981	Pawtucket (AAA)	12-9	2.13	25	23	8	0	0	173.	136	52	41	73	113
1981	Boston (AL)	6-2	3.12	10	10	2	0	0	66.1	50	25	23	25	28
1982	Boston (AL)	4-6	5.63	22	14	0	0	0	78.1	95	53	49	29	52
1983	Boston (AL)	12-7	4.04	29	28	5	0	0	173.2	173	85	78	73	94
1984	Boston (AL)	12-12	3.99	33	32	8	5	0	216.2	211	106	96	96	137
1985	Boston (AL)	9-11	4.00	39	22	5	0	1	157.2	166	74	70	48	102
Major League Totals		44-39	4.21	140	113	20	5	1	718.2	734	363	336	285	425

Jesse Orosco 47

LHP, 6-2, 185 lbs., R-L
Born: 4-21-57, Santa Barbara, CA; Resides: St. Peterburg, FL

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1978	Elizabethton (Rookie)	4-4	1.13	20	0	0	0	6	40.	29	7	5	20	48
1979	Mets (NL)	1-2	4.89	18	2	0	0	0	35.	33	20	19	22	22
1979	Tidewater (AAA)	4-4	3.89	16	15	1	0	0	81.	82	45	35	43	55
1980	Jackson (AA)	4-4	3.68	37	1	0	0	3	71.	52	36	29	62	85
1981	Tidewater (AAA)	9-5	3.31	46	10	0	0	8	87.	80	39	32	32	81
1981	Mets (NL)	0-1	1.59	8	0	0	0	1	17.	13	4	3	6	18
1982	Mets (NL)	4-10	2.72	54	2	0	0	4	109.1	92	37	33	40	89
1983	Mets (NL)	13-7	1.47	62	0	0	0	17	110.	76	27	18	38	84
1984	Mets (NL)	10-6	2.59	60	0	0	0	31	87.	58	29	25	34	85
1985	Mets (NL)	8-6	2.73	54	0	0	0	17	79.	66	26	24	34	68
Major League Totals		36-32	2.51	256	4	0	0	70	437.1	338	143	122	174	366

GWRBI: 1981—0; 1982—0; 1983—0; 1984—0; 1985—0. Total—0.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1983	Natl., Chicago, (AL)	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	.1	0	0	0	0	1
1984	Natl., San Francisco	(Selected, did not pitch)												
All-Star Game Totals		0-0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	.1	0	0	0	0	1

Argenis Salazar 2

INF, 6-0, 170 lbs., R-R
Born: 11-4-61, Anaco-Anzoategui, Venezuela; Resides: Barinas, Venezuela

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1980	Calgary (A)	.243	51	169	29	41	2	0	0	11	12	14	19
1981	Calgary (A)	.247	63	259	37	64	5	3	2	25	9	23	7
1982	W. Palm Beach (A)	.267	112	408	63	109	15	2	2	36	27	54	25
1983	Wichita (AAA)	.302	98	341	47	103	23	7	1	54	15	40	12
1983	Montreal (NL)	.216	36	37	5	8	1	1	0	1	1	8	0
1984	Indianapolis (AAA)	.276	50	156	11	43	8	1	1	14	4	30	6
1984	Montreal (NL)	.155	80	174	12	27	4	2	0	12	4	38	1
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	.252	84	230	25	58	10	1	0	18	16	27	8
Major League Totals		.166	116	211	17	35	5	3	0	13	5	46	1

GWRBI: 1983—0; 1984—1. Total—1.

Rafael Santana 3

INF, 6-1, 160 lbs., R-R
Born: 1-31-58, La Romana, DR; Resides: LaRomana, DR

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1977	Oneonta (A)	.261	60	157	26	41	5	0	0	23	19	19	5
1978	Ft. Lauderdale (A)	.258	131	431	37	111	8	5	0	35	29	63	4
1979	Ft. Lauderdale (A)	.263	133	472	62	124	9	6	0	41	36	53	12
1980	Ft. Lauderdale (A)	.226	51	168	20	38	2	0	1	17	23	12	4
1980	Nashville (AA)	.233	86	275	33	64	4	3	0	20	23	23	7
1981	Arkansas (AA)	.233	110	326	34	76	14	3	0	19	24	43	2
1981	Springfield (AAA)	.500	2	8	3	4	1	0	1	2	0	0	1
1982	Louisville (AAA)	.286	121	430	65	123	15	3	3	53	27	46	16
1983	St. Louis (NL)	.214	30	14	1	3	0	0	0	2	2	2	0
1983	Louisville (AAA)	.281	45	167	19	47	9	1	0	20	5	24	3
1984	Tidewater (AAA)	.278	77	255	34	71	6	0	1	23	11	19	10
1984	Mets (NL)	.276	51	152	14	42	11	1	1	12	9	17	0
1985	Mets (NL)	.257	154	529	41	136	19	1	1	29	29	54	1
Major League Totals		.260	235	695	56	181	30	2	2	43	40	73	1

GWRBI: 1983—0; 1984—2; 1985—6. Total—8.

Doug Sisk 39

RHP, 6-2, 210 lbs., R-R
Born: 9-26-57, Renton, WA; Resides: Tacoma, WA

YEAR	CLUB	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1980	Kingsport (Rookie)	8-5	2.66	15	15	4	0	0	98.	91	46	29	45	41
1981	Lynchburg (A)	3-2	3.25	36	1	0	0	7	83.	78	35	30	32	61
1981	Jackson (AA)	3-0	3.60	14	0	0	0	4	25.	23	11	10	12	15
1982	Jackson (AA)	11-7	2.67	44	9	6	0	5	138.	136	59	41	58	53
1982	Mets (NL)	0-1	1.04	8	0	0	0	1	8.2	5	1	1	4	4
1983	Mets (NL)	5-4	2.24	67	0	0	0	11	104.1	88	38	26	59	33
1984	Mets (NL)	1-3	2.09	50	0	0	0	15	77.2	57	24	18	54	32
1985	Tidewater (AAA)	0-2	7.20	4	3	0	0	0	15.	15	12	12	13	4
1985	Mets (NL)	4-5	5.30	42	0	0	0	2	73.	86	48	43	40	26
Major League Totals		10-13	3.00	167	0	0	0	29	263.2	236	111	88	157	95

Darryl Strawberry 18

OF, 6-6, 190 lbs., L-L
Born: 3-12-62, Los Angeles, CA; Resides: Los Angeles, CA

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1980	Kingsport (Rookie)	.268	44	157	27	42	5	2	5	20	20	39	5
1981	Lynchburg (A)	.255	123	420	84	107	22	6	13	78	82	105	31
1982	Jackson (AA)	.283	129	435	93	123	19	9	34	97	100	145	45
1983	Tidewater (AAA)	.333	16	57	12	19	4	1	3	13	14	18	7
1983	Mets (NL)	.257	122	420	63	108	15	7	26	74	47	128	19
1984	Mets (NL)	.251	147	522	75	131	27	4	26	97	75	131	27
1985	Mets (NL)	.277	111	393	78	109	15	4	29	79	73	96	26
Major League Totals		.261	380	1335	216	348	57	15	81	250	195	355	72

GWRBI: 1983—11; 1984—8; 1985—8. Total—27.

ALL-STAR GAME RECORD

YEAR	LEAGUE, SITE	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1984	National, San Francisco	.500	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1985	National, Minnesota	1.000	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
All-Star Game Totals		.667	2	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1

Tim Teufel 11

INF, 6-0, 175 lbs., R-R
Born: 7-7-58, Greenwich, CT; Resides: Longwood, FL

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1980	Orlando (A)	.265	86	287	38	76	15	3	11	47	49	61	3
1981	Orlando (A)	.248	128	416	69	103	21	5	17	60	45	80	4
1982	Orlando (A)	.282	100	340	52	96	12	4	9	56	67	51	16
1982	Toledo (AAA)	.282	45	149	25	42	10	4	6	20	15	23	1
1983	Toledo (AAA)	.323	136	471	103	152	27	6	27	100	102	71	13
1983	Minnesota (AL)	.308	21	78	11	24	7	1	3	6	2	8	0
1984	Minnesota (AL)	.262	157	568	76	149	30	3	14	61	76	73	1
1985	Minnesota (AL)	.260	138	434	58	113	24	3	10	50	48	70	4
Major League Totals		.265	316	1080	145	286	61	7	27	117	126	151	5

GWRBI: 1983—3; 1984—10; 1985—4. Total—17.

Mookie Wilson 1

OF, 5-10, 168 lbs., SW-R
Born: 2-9-56, Bamberg, SC; Resides: Lakewood, NJ

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB
1977	Wausau (A)	.290	68	245	50	71	10	2	6	32	33	57	23
1978	Jackson (AA)	.292	132	497	72	145	13	15	7	72	39	70	38
1979	Tidewater (AAA)	.267	141	529	84	141	22	10	5	36	45	91	49
1980	Tidewater (AAA)	.295	132	515	92	152	11	14	4	44	44	86	50
1980	Mets (NL)	.248	27	105	16	26	5	3	0	4	12	19	7
1981	Mets (NL)	.271	92	328	49	89	8	8	3	14	20	59	24
1982	Mets (NL)	.279	159	639	90	178	25	9	5	55	32	102	58
1983	Mets (NL)	.276	152	638	91	176	25	6	7	51	18	103	54
1984	Mets (NL)	.276	154	587	88	162	28	10	10	54	26	90	46
1985	Mets (NL)	.276	93	337	56	93	16	8	6	26	28	52	24
Major League Totals		.275	677	2634	390	724	107	44	31	204	136	425	213

GWRBI: 1980—0; 1981—2; 1982—5; 1983—6; 1984—7; 1985-1. Total—21.

IN THE CLUBHOUSE

Head trainer Steve Garland (L) and assistant trainer Bob Sikes

Equipment manager Charlie Samuels

Team physician Dr. James Parkes (L) and associate team physician Dr. Fiske Warren.

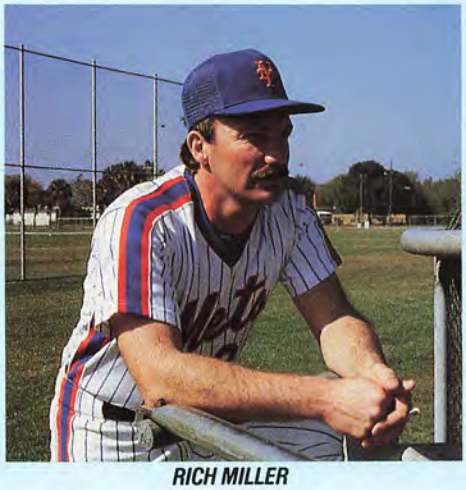
MINOR LEAGUE MANAGERS

SAM PERLOZZO

MIKE CUBBAGE

BOBBY FLOYD

TUCKER ASHFORD



RICH MILLER

CHUCK HILLER

SAM PERLOZZO
Tidewater (International League)
Managed the Jackson Mets to the Texas League titie in '85, winning the Casey Stengel Award as the top manager in the Mets' system…Has led his clubs to championships in each of his last three seasons in the Mets organization…Came to New York for the final three weeks of the '85 season to assist Davey Johnson and his staff.

MIKE CUBBAGE
Jackson (Texas League)
Owns a .657 winning percentage in his three-year managerial career…Piloted Lynchburg of the Carolina League to a 95-45 record in '85…Named Manager of the Year in the NY-Penn League in '83 and in the Carolina League in '84…Had an eight-year playing career with the Rangers, Twins and Mets.

BOBBY FLOYD
Lynchburg (Carolina League)
First season in the Mets' organization…Has won 592 games in nine-year managerial career…Managed in Triple-A for the Seattle Mariners over the last four years…A teammate of Davey Johnson on the 1969 AL Champion Baltimore Orioles.

TUCKER ASHFORD
Columbia (South Atlantic League)
Former infielder enters his second year as a manager in the Mets' system…Last year, he piloted the Mets' Kingsport club in the Appalachian League…Played in the majors from 1976-84 with Padres, Rangers, Royals, Yankees and Mets…One of 33 players who appeared for both New York teams…International League Player of the Year in 1982, when he hit .331 with 101 RBI for Columbus.

RICH MILLER
Little Falls (NY-Penn League)
Has compiled a .555 winning percentage in his four years as a pro manager…Led Columbia to a 79-57 mark in '85…South Atlantic League's Manager of the Year in '84, as he piloted Columbia to 82-57 record…Former outfielder played in the Mets' system from 1973-80.

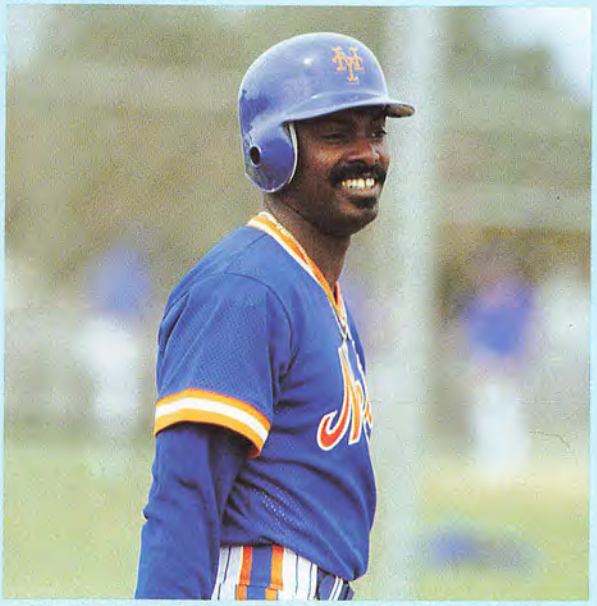
CHUCK HILLER
Kingsport (Appalachian League)
Returns to Mets organization after spending '85 as the third base coach for the Giants…Has also coached for Texas, Kansas City and St. Louis…Has 339 wins in eight seasons as a minor league manager…Managed in the Mets' system for six seasons, and served as Darryl Strawberry's first pro manager (Kingsport, 1980)…Had an eight-year playing career with the Giants, Phillies, Pirates and Mets from 1961-68, and cracked a grand slam for the Giants in the '62 World Series.

UP AND COMING

KEVIN ELSTER—INF

Split the '85 season between Lynchburg and Jackson, playing superbly at shortstop in both places…Hit .295 for Lynchburg with seven homers and 26 RBI in 59 games… Hit .257 for Jackson, as Mets were 36-23 in the 59 games he played…Year ended on August 10 when he fractured his left thumb …Named to Carolina League All-Star Team.

TERRY BLOCKER—OF



Hit .307 for Tidewater in '85…Stole 20 bases in 24 attempts…Hit .365 in a 21-game stretch (July 28-August 14)… Began the '85 season with Mets, and suffered a deep contusion of the quadriceps tendon above the left knee in outfield collision with Danny Heep on June 9, sidelining him for two weeks.

MARCUS LAWTON—OF

Led professional baseball in '85 with 111 stolen bases for Columbia of the South Atlantic League, establishing a Mets organization record…Finished second in the League with a club record 113 runs scored …Had a stretch of at least one steal in 12 straight games (May 29-June 14)… Began the year as a shortstop and moved to the outfield in mid-season.

STAN JEFFERSON—OF

Bronx native led the Texas League in '85 as he stole 39 bases for Jackson…Second in the League with a club record 524 at bats, and third with 97 runs scored…Selected to Texas League mid-season All-Star Game… Ended the year with an 11-game hit streak, then hit safely in all six playoff games in leading Jackson to the Texas League title.

JOSE BAUTISTA—P

Finished second in the Carolina League with 15 wins for Lynchburg in '85...Sixth in the League with a 2.34 ERA, and third in complete games with seven...His average of 1.76 walks per nine innings topped the League's starting pitchers.

KYLE HARTSHORN—P

Became the third consecutive Lynchburg Met—joining Dwight Gooden in '83 and Randy Myers in '84—to win the Carolina League's Pitcher of the Year award...Led the League in wins (17) and ERA (1.69), while placing second in complete games (eight) and innings (170.2)...Named co-winner with Shawn Abner of Doubleday Award as Lynchburg's top player.

AUGIE GARCIA—P

Season cut short by right shoulder problems...Appeared in four games for Lynchburg, then underwent surgery to repair a torn cartilage of the right shoulder ...Posted a 2.65 ERA for Lynchburg in 1984, the year he turned to pitching full-time after five years as an infielder.

JOHN MITCHELL—P

Acquired from Boston in the Bob Ojeda deal...Went 12-8 in '85 for New Britain of the Eastern league, and was tied for fourth in the League with 12 wins...Had a one-hitter and two, three-hitters...Second in the League in innings pitched (190.1) and tied for second with 10 complete games.

REGGIE DOBIE—P

Started 26 games for Lynchburg in '85 and tied for the Carolina League lead... fourth in the League in strikeouts (144) and innings pitched (167.2)...His 12 wins tied for fourth in the loop...Had an 18-inning scoreless streak in June.

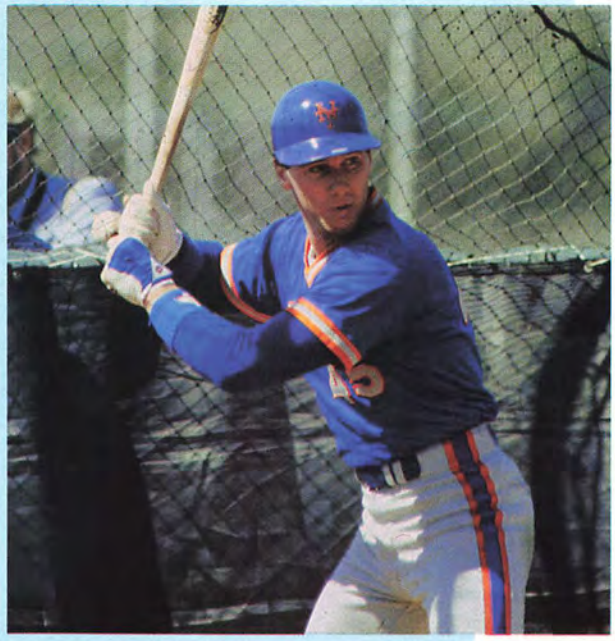
GREG OLSON—C

Hit .271 for Jackson...Struck out once per 10.50 at bats, the sixth-best ratio in the Texas League...Threw out 52 percent of runners trying to steal on him...Led Carolina League catchers in four fielding categories in 1983.

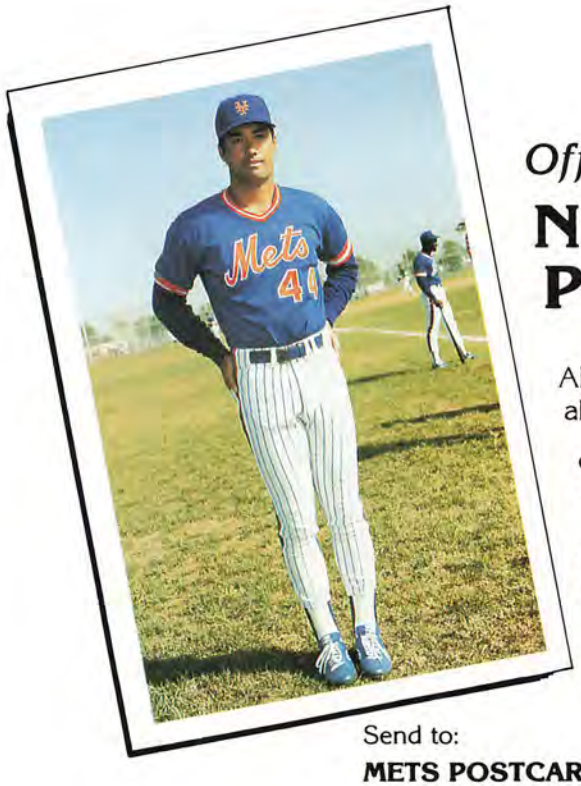
SHAWN ABNER—OF

Named MVP of the Carolina League, joining Lenny Dykstra ('83) and Barry Lyons ('84) as the third straight Lynchburg Met to win the award...Was third in the League in average (.301), while leading in hits (163), doubles (30), triples (11), and RBI (89)... Named co-winner (with Kyle Hartshorn) of the Doubleday Award at Lynchburg...The nation's number one draft pick in 1984 June draft.

KEVIN BURRELL—C



Starting catcher for the Northern Division in the Carolina League All-Star Game in '85...Saw action in 104 games at catcher, four games as a DH and one at first base for Lynchburg...Had 21 multi-hit games.



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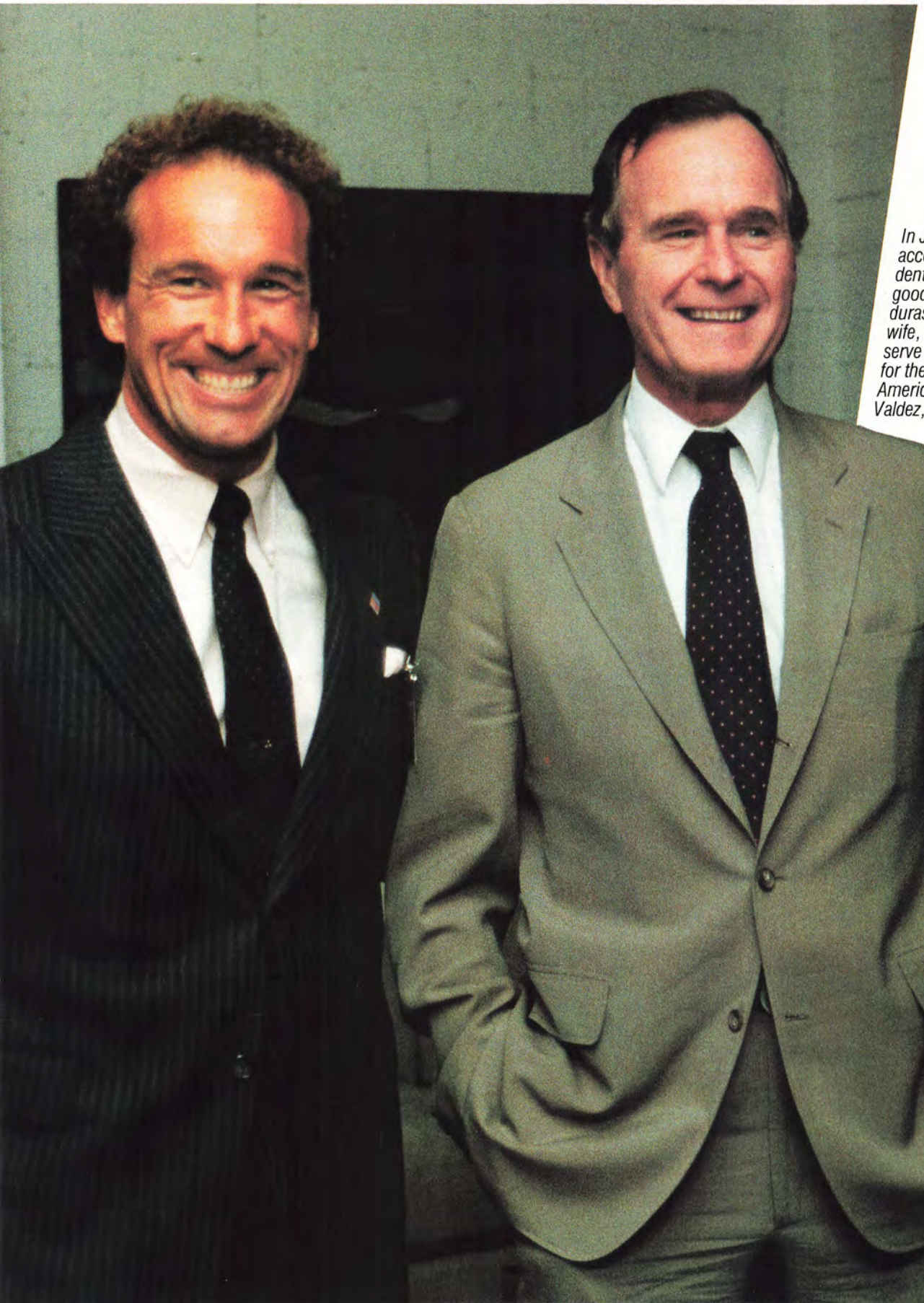
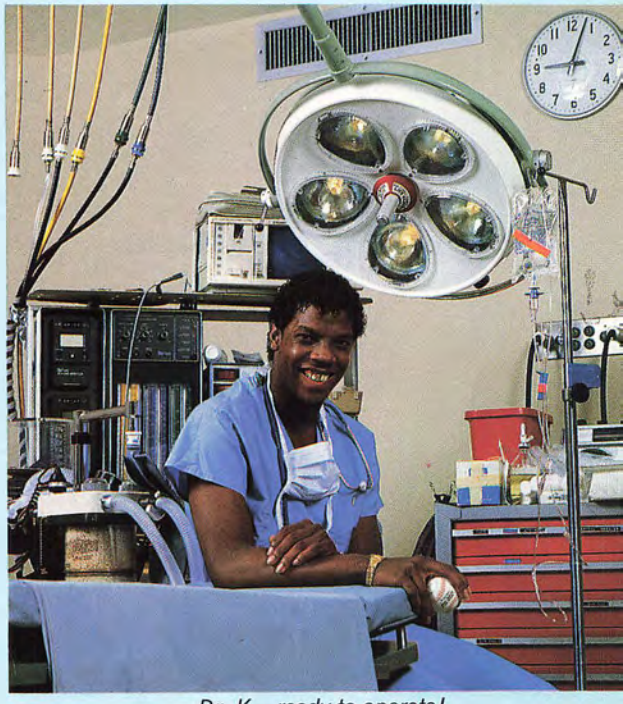
HOW WE SPENT THE WINTER



In January, Gary Carter accompanied Vice President George Bush on a good-will mission to Honduras. The vice president's wife, Barbara, and Gary serve as national volunteers for the Leukemia Society of America (Photo by Dave Valdez, The White House).

Ron Darling was cited by New York Governor Mario Cuomo for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Governor's Youth Drug Prevention Campaign. Ronnie spent much of the winter visiting hospitals and schools, alerting young people to the evils of drug use. (Photo by Marcia Oliveri).



Dr. K—ready to operate!

Mookie and Rosa Wilson celebrated the birth of their third child, Ernestine Treaell Rhumell Wilson. Here, Ernestine and her parents are joined by Dr. Ketelaar.

It was a good winter to be HoJo. Howard passed a six-hour exam to become a certified stockbroker. Here he is at his off-season job at the Dean Witter Reynolds firm.

In November, several of the Mets joined a boatload of fans for a week-long cruise aboard the famed Cunard Countess. Among the Mets who sailed the high seas were (L to R): Jesse Orosco, Darryl Strawberry, George Foster, Gary Carter and Keith Hernandez.

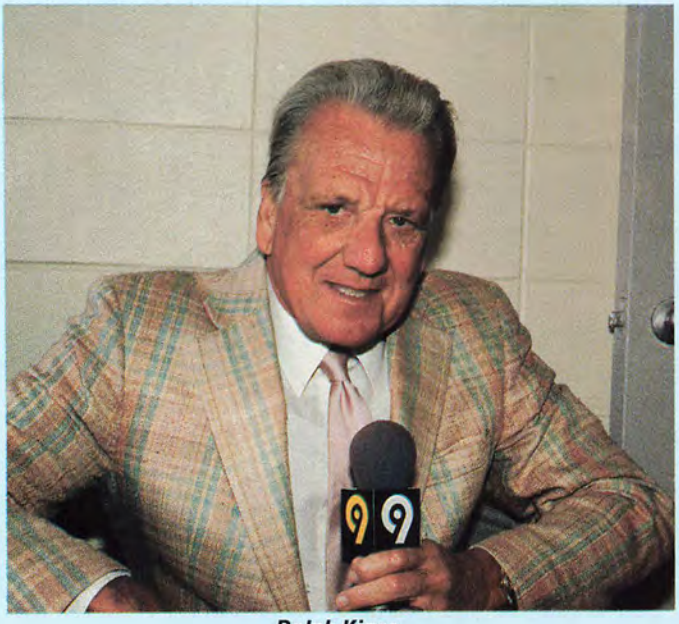
When the Countess docked in Barbados, it was softball time! Mets announcer Ralph Kiner shows off his Hall of Fame batting form.

Gary and Mets Senior Vice President Al Harazin (far right) meet Captain Keith Stanley.

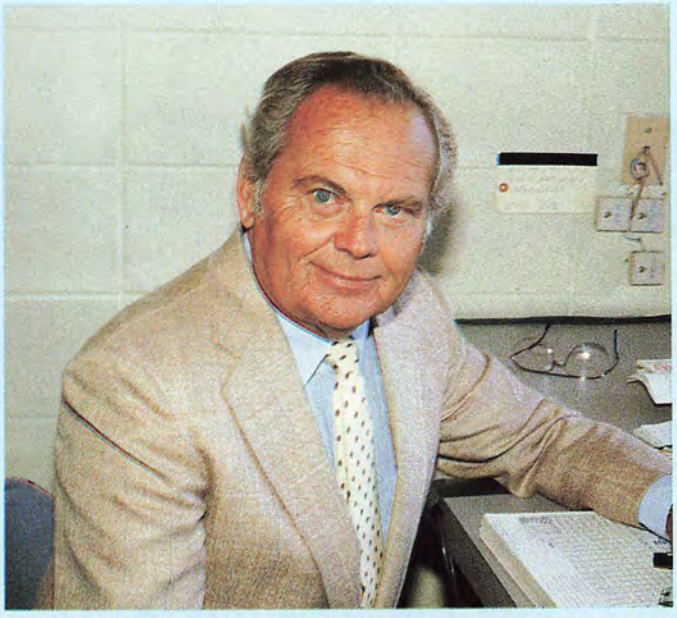
HoJo also won the annual rib-eating contest at Rusty Staub's East Side restaurant. Here's Howard with Rusty and co-winner Rocky Klever of the Jets.

Before we knew it, it was time to leave a winter of fun and relaxation behind and head for Florida for the grinding, non-stop tension of spring training. The stress obviously shows here on the faces of coaches Mel Stottlemyre and Greg Pavlick and instructors Al Jackson and John Cumberland.

From the opening day of spring training in 1962 to the Silver Anniversary 1986 season, ***Ralph Kiner*** *and* ***Bob Murphy*** *have seen and described each and every bit of the 25-year saga of the New York Mets. Starting in the early days at the Polo Grounds with Manager Casey Stengel and longtime sidekick Lindsey Nelson (above), they've taken us through the entire journey…from Stengel to Johnson, Craig to Gooden, Throneberry to Strawberry. Truly, theirs are the voices of history.*



Ralph Kiner



Bob Murphy

METS ON THE AIR

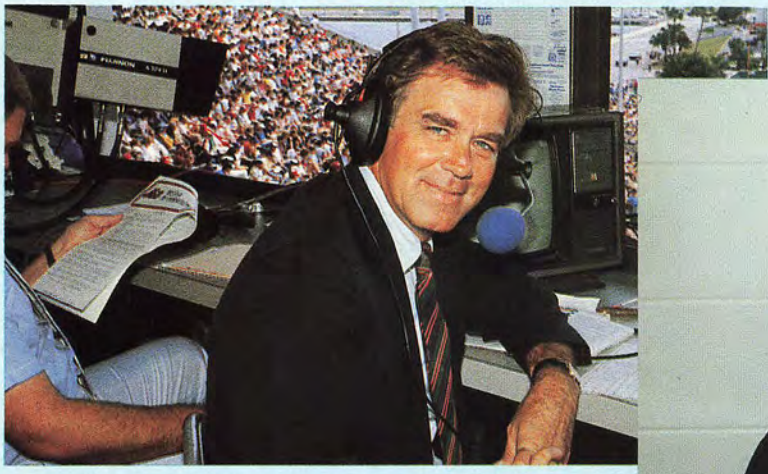
Years	Announcers
1962-78	**RADIO & TV:** Ralph Kiner, Bob Murphy, Lindsey Nelson
1979	**RADIO & TV:** Ralph Kiner, Bob Murphy, Steve Albert
1980	**RADIO & TV:** Ralph Kiner, Bob Murphy, Steve Albert **CABLE TV:** Art Shamsky, Bob Goldsholl
1981	**RADIO:** Ralph Kiner, Bob Murphy, Steve Albert, Art Shamsky **TV:** Kiner, Murphy, Albert **CABLE TV:** Kiner, Murphy, Albert, Shamsky
1982	**RADIO:** Bob Murphy, Steve LaMar **TV & CABLE TV:** Ralph Kiner, Lorn Brown
1983	**RADIO:** Bob Murphy, Steve LaMar **TV:** Ralph Kiner, Tim McCarver, Steve Zabriskie **CABLE TV:** Kiner, McCarver, Bud Harrelson
1984	**RADIO:** Bob Murphy, Steve LaMar **TV:** Ralph Kiner, Tim McCarver, Steve Zabriskie **CABLE TV:** Kiner, McCarver, Fran Healy
1985	**RADIO:** Bob Murphy, Gary Thorne **TV:** Ralph Kiner, Tim McCarver, Steve Zabriskie **CABLE TV:** Kiner, McCarver, Fran Healy

FLAGSHIP RADIO STATIONS: WHN 1050 (1964-66; 1972-74; 1983-85); WABC 770 (1962-63); WJRZ 970 (1967-71); WNEW 1130 (1975-77); WMCA 570 (1978-82).

FLAGSHIP TV STATIONS: WOR-TV 9 (1962-85).

Lindsey Nelson (seen here on Opening Day, 1977) joined Kiner and Murphy on Mets broadcasts from 1962 through 1978, to form the longest-running three-man announcing team in baseball history. Lindsey, Bob and Ralph were inducted into the Mets Hall of Fame in 1984.

METS BROADCASTERS



Former major league catcher ***Tim McCarver,*** *one of only seven modern-day players to appear in four decades, is in his fourth season on the Mets' TV announcing team. A two-time NL All-Star with the Cards, Tim was also a member of the ABC-TV team that telecast the World Series last year.*

The man from Maine, ***Gary Thorne,*** *is in his second year as Bob Murphy's sidekick on the Mets' radio team. Gary is a 21-year veteran of broadcasting, and joined the Mets from the Maine Guides of the International League.*

Fran Healy *(shown here with Sid Fernandez) teams with Kiner and McCarver on SportsChannel cablecasts. Fran, who had a nine-year major league career with the Royals, Giants and Yankees, joined the Mets' SportsChannel announcing team in 1984.*

Steve Zabriskie *joined the WOR-TV broadcast team in 1983, and will once again share the booth with Ralph Kiner and Tim McCarver. Steve, who has a background of 19 years in sportscasting, worked for ABC Sports from 1979-82.*

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TIME OF GAMES—1986

Day Game	1:35
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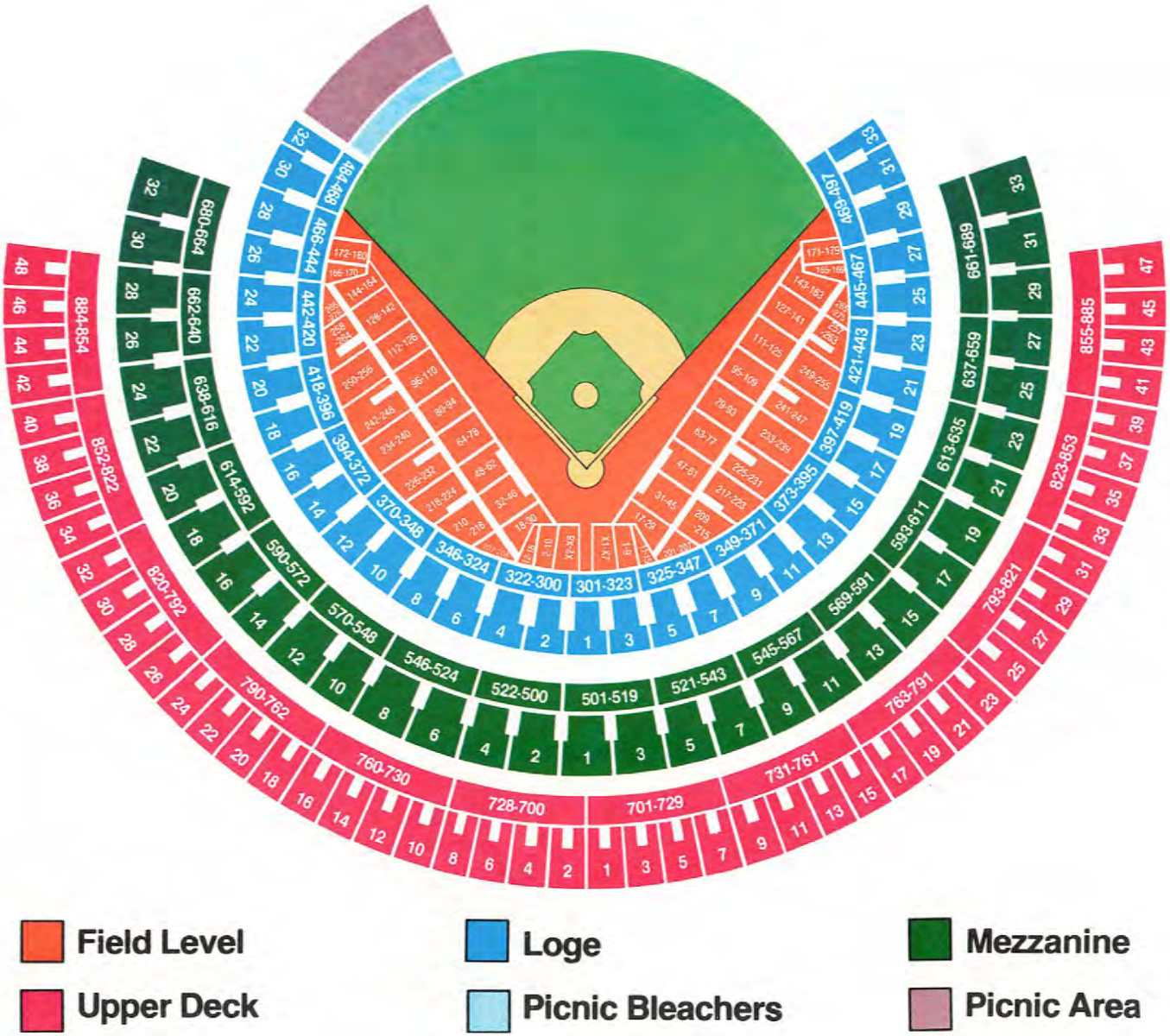
TwiNight	5:35
Night Game	7:35
except Saturday	7:05



(Top Row L to R)
Alan E. Harazin, Senior Vice President
Harold W. O'Shaughnessy; VP, Finance and Administration, Robert L. Mandt; VP, Operations

(Bottom Row L to R)
Joseph McIlvaine; VP, Baseball Operations
John A. Doht; VP, Special Projects

Frances Urciuoli and Arthur Richman, Special Asst. to the G.M. and Travel Director

Public Relations: Jay Horwitz, Patricia Kirshey and Dennis D'Agostino.

Minor Leagues: (L to R) Maureen Ardiff; John Barr, Administrative Assistant of Scouting and Minor Leagues; Steve Schryver, Director of Minor League Operations. Inset: *Roland Johnson, Director of Scouting*

Maryanne Gugliotto (Promotions); Drew Sheinman, Director of Marketing; James Plummer, Promotions Administrator

Jackie Pamlanye (Executive secretary to Mr. Harazin); Jean Coen, Executive Assistant to Mr. Cashen; Mike Ryan, Director of Broadcasting

Ticket Department (Front, L to R) Rosemary Morrisey, Gerard Costa (Rear, L to R) Peter Wragg, Richard DiRocca, John Giglio

Vio Mocuta and Karen Tenreiro

(Front row, L to R) Nancy McLernon, Michele Gomez, Angela Liantonio, Mary McLernon. (Rear row, L to R) Ann Campanaro, Nicolina Petrizzo, Eileen Palese, Natalie Welch. Toni Giordano, Evelyn Liantonio.

THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM

Community Relations: Juan Alicea and Tommy Holmes, Director of Amateur Baseball Relations

Accounting: (Seated) Bill Grundel, Controller. (Standing L to R) Tom Doyle, Paul Macchia, Angela Casturani, Dave Pia, Pasquale Albanese, Marie Fernandez

Executive Secretaries: (L to R) Michele Kremberg (to Mr. Mandt); Jeanne Johnston (Marketing); Kathy Cannon (to Mr. Doht); Jane Choquette (to Mr. O'Shaughnessy)

Pete Flynn, Head Groundskeeper, and John McCarthy, Stadium Manager.

Marie Melluso, Season Ticket Manager, and Bill Ianniciello, Ticket Manager.

DSI Renovations, Inc.: Modesto Villar and Charles Adler

Special Services (L to R): Patti Sarano, Manager of Fan Relations; Tod Tillotson, Rita Miller

Sales: (Seated) Randye Ringler, Sales Director. (Standing, L to R) Phil Bernstein; Peter Sinagra, Assistant Suite Administrator; Liz Greco. (Absent: Bob O'Hara, Suite Administrator)

Switchboard: Pat McLaughlin and Ethel Weller.

1986 NEW YORK METS

FRONT ROW (L to R): *Trainer Emeritus Tom McKenna, Coaches Greg Pavlick, Bill Robinson, Vern Hoscheit, Bud Harrelson and Mel Stottlemyre, Trainer Steve Garland, Assistant Trainer Bob Sikes.*

SECOND ROW; *George Foster, Jesse Orosco, Ed Lynch, Darryl Strawberry, Gary Carter, Manager Davey Johnson, Dwight Gooden, Keith Hernandez, Ron Darling, Wally Backman, Mookie Wilson.*

THIRD ROW: *Travel Director & Asst. to G.M. Arthur Richman, Ray Knight, Rafael Santana, Bob Ojeda, Howard Johnson, Sid Fernandez, Rick Aguilera, Bruce Berenyi, Danny Heep, Roger McDowell, Doug Sisk, Lenny Dykstra, Equipment Manager Charlie Samuels.*

FOURTH ROW: *Clubhouse Assistant Vinnie Greco, Tom Gorman, John Gibbons, Stan Jefferson, Ed Hearn, Barry Lyons, Terry Leach, Tim Teufel, Randy Niemann, Shawn Abner, Randy Myers, Ron Gardenhire, Tim Corcoran.*

BACK ROW: *Augie Garcia, Kyle Hartshorn, Argenis Salazar, Kevin Burrell, Dave Magadan, Greg Olson, Reggie Dobie, John Mitchell, Terry Blocker, Kevin Elster, Dave West, Desi Brooks, Kevin Mitchell, Jose Bautista, Marcus Lawton, Tom McCarthy, Assistant Equipment Manager John Rufino.*

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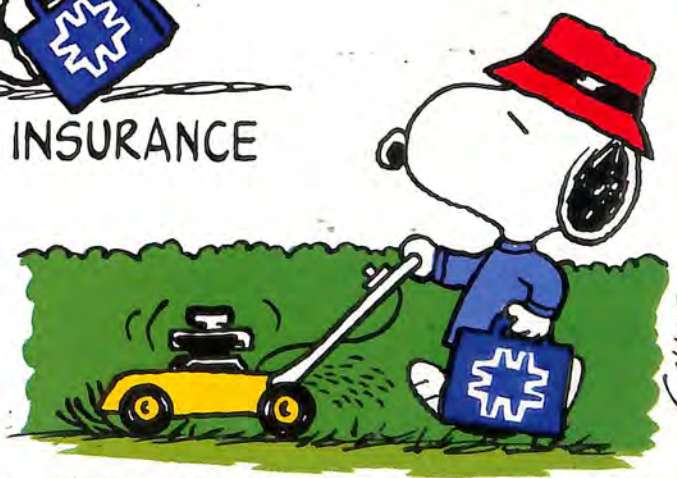

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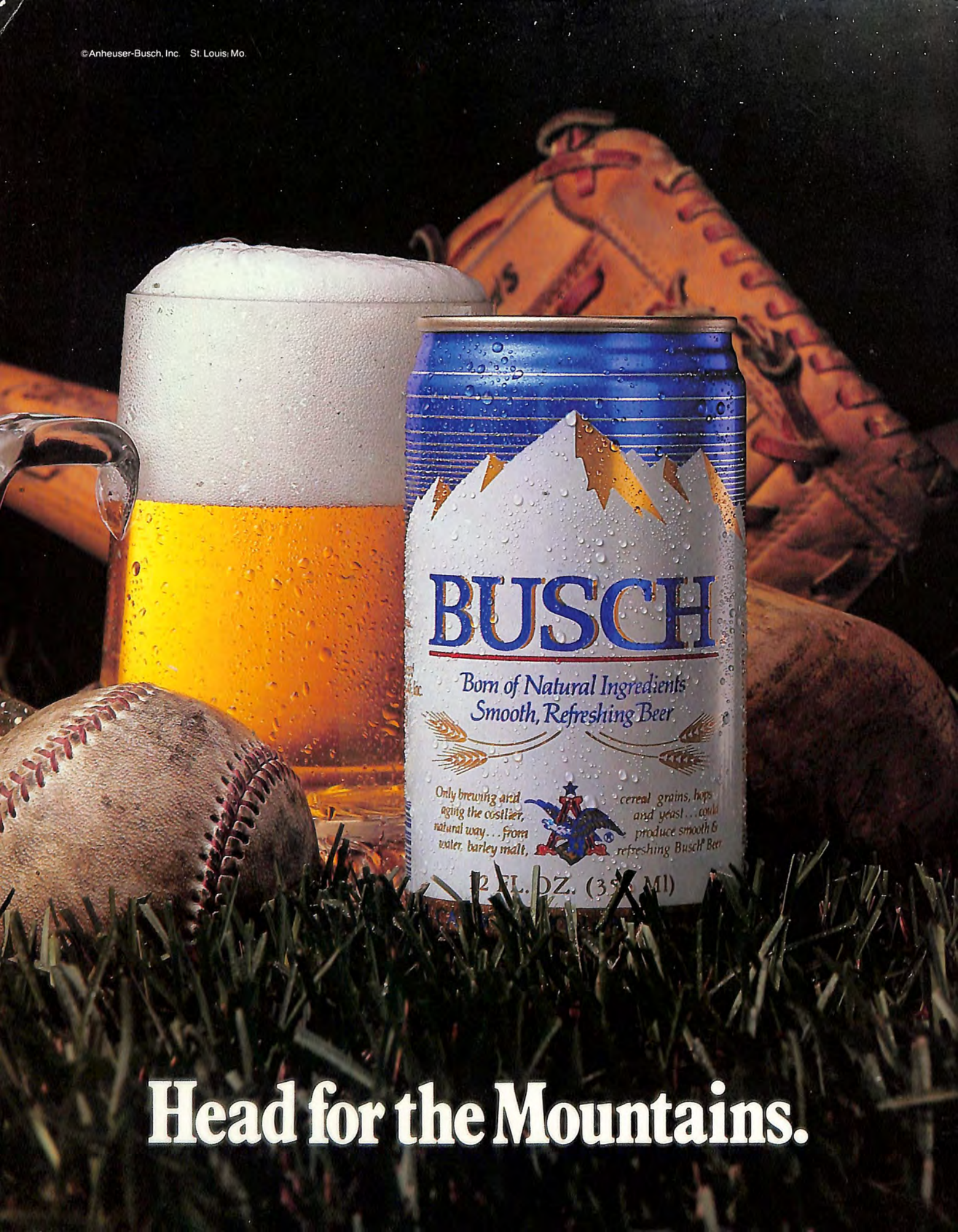
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